**Measure #91 (NQF 0653): Acute Otitis Externa (AOE): Topical Therapy – National Quality Strategy**  
**Domain: Effective Clinical Care**

### 2016 PQRS OPTIONS FOR INDIVIDUAL MEASURES:
**CLAIMS, REGISTRY**

**DESCRIPTION:**
Percentage of patients aged 2 years and older with a diagnosis of AOE who were prescribed topical preparations

**INSTRUCTIONS:**
This measure is to be reported once for each occurrence of AOE during the reporting period. Each unique occurrence is defined as a 30-day period from onset of AOE. Claims data will be analyzed to determine unique occurrences. If multiple claims are submitted within that 30-day period, only one instance of reporting will be counted. This measure may be reported by clinicians who perform the quality actions described in the measure based on the services provided and the measure-specific denominator coding.

Clinicians who report on this measure may also find Measure #93: Acute Otitis Externa: Systemic Antimicrobial Therapy – Avoidance of Inappropriate Use to be clinically relevant. The measure developer intended for PQRS measures #91: Acute Otitis Externa (AOE): Topical Therapy and #93: Acute Otitis Externa (AOE): Systemic Antimicrobial Therapy- Avoidance of Inappropriate Use to be paired measures, as they can both be implemented to measure care provided to patients diagnosed with diffuse, uncomplicated AOE.

**Measure Reporting via Claims:**
ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes, CPT codes, and patient demographics are used to identify patients who are included in the measure’s denominator. CPT Category II codes are used to report the numerator of the measure.

When reporting the measure via claims, submit the appropriate ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes, CPT codes, and the appropriate CPT Category II code OR the CPT Category II code with the modifier. The modifiers allowed for this measure are: 1P- medical reasons, 2P- patient reasons, 8P- reason not otherwise specified. All measure-specific coding should be reported on the claim(s) representing the eligible encounter.

**Measure Reporting via Registry:**
ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes, CPT codes, and patient demographics are used to identify patients who are included in the measure’s denominator. The listed numerator options are used to report the numerator of the measure.

The quality-data codes listed do not need to be submitted for registry-based submissions; however, these codes may be submitted for those registries that utilize claims data.

**DENOMINATOR:**
All patients aged 2 years and older with a diagnosis of AOE

**Denominator Criteria (Eligible Cases):**
Patients aged ≥ 2 years on date of encounter

**AND**

**Diagnosis for AOE (ICD-10-CM):** H60.00, H60.01, H60.02, H60.03, H60.10, H60.11, H60.12, H60.13, H60.311, H60.312, H60.313, H60.319, H60.321, H60.322, H60.323, H60.329, H60.331, H60.332, H60.333, H60.339, H60.391, H60.392, H60.393, H60.399, H60.501, H60.502, H60.503, H60.509, H60.511, H60.512, H60.513, H60.519, H60.521, H60.522, H60.523, H60.529, H60.531, H60.532, H60.533, H60.539, H60.541, H60.542, H60.543, H60.549, H60.551, H60.552, H60.553, H60.559, H60.591, H60.592, H60.593, H60.599, H61.90, H61.91, H61.92, H61.93, H62.40, H62.41, H62.42, H62.43, H62.8x1, H62.8x2, H62.8x3, H62.8x9

**AND**
Patient encounter during the reporting period (CPT): 99201, 99202, 99203, 99204, 99205, 99212, 99213, 99214, 99215, 99281, 99282, 99283, 99284, 99285, 99304, 99305, 99306, 99307, 99308, 99309, 99310, 99324, 99325, 99326, 99327, 99328, 99334, 99335, 99336, 99337, 99341, 99342, 99343, 99344, 99345, 99347, 99348, 99349, 99350

**Numerator:**

Patients who were prescribed topical preparations

**Definition:**

Prescribed – May include prescription given to the patient for topical preparations at one or more visits during the episode of AOE OR patient already receiving topical preparations as documented in the current medication list.

**Numerator Quality-Data Coding Options for Reporting Satisfactorily:**

- **Performance Met:**
  
  Topical preparations (including OTC) prescribed for acute otitis externa (4130F)

- **Medical Performance Exclusion:**
  
  Documentation of medical reason(s) for not prescribing topical preparations (including OTC) for acute otitis externa (eg, coexisting acute otitis media, tympanic membrane perforation) (4130F with 1P)

- **Patient Performance Exclusion:**
  
  Documentation of patient reason(s) for not prescribing topical preparations (including OTC) for acute otitis externa (4130F with 2P)

- **Performance Not Met:**
  
  Topical preparations (including OTC) for acute otitis externa (AOE) not prescribed, reason not otherwise specified (4130F with 8P)

**Rationale:**

Topical preparations should be used to treat AOE as they are active against the most common bacterial pathogens in AOE, Pseudomonas aeruginosa and Staphylococcus aureus. Topical preparations are recommended as initial therapy for diffuse, uncomplicated AOE because of safety, efficacy over placebo in randomized controlled trials, and excellent clinical and bacteriologic outcomes in comparative studies. Topical preparations have demonstrated efficacy in the treatment of AOE with resolution in about 65-90% of patients.

**Clinical Recommendation Statements:**

Clinicians should prescribe topical preparations for initial therapy of diffuse, uncomplicated AOE.

Recommendation based on randomized controlled trials with some heterogeneity and a preponderance of benefit over harm. [Aggregate evidence quality – Grade B] (AAO-HNSF, 2014)

The purpose of this statement is to emphasize the importance of topical therapy, without systemic antibiotics, for initial management of uncomplicated AOE.

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2016 Claims/Registry Individual Measure Flow
PQRS #91 NQF #0653: Acute Otitis Externa (AOE): Topical Therapy

**Denominator**
- Start
- Patient Age at Date of Service ≥ 2 Years
  - No
  - Yes
    - Diagnosis of AOE as Listed in Denominator*
      - No
        - Not Included in Eligible Population/Denominator
      - Yes
        - Encounter as Listed in Denominator* (1/1/2016 thru 12/31/2016)
          - No
            - Not Included in Eligible Population/Denominator
          - Yes
            - Include in Eligible Population/Denominator (8 episodes)

**Numerator**
- Topical Preparations (including Over the Counter [OTC]) Prescribed for AOE
  - Yes
    - Reporting Met + Performance Met 4130F or equivalent (4 episodes) a
  - No
    - Documentation of Medical Reason for Not Prescribing Topical Preparations (including OTC) for AOE
      - Yes
        - Reporting Met + Performance Exclusion 4130F-1P or equivalent (1 episode) b
      - No
        - Documentation of Patient Reason for Not Prescribing Topical Preparations (including OTC) for AOE
          - Yes
            - Reporting Met + Performance Exclusion 4130F-2P or equivalent (6 episodes) b
          - No
            - Topical Preparations (including OTC) for AOE Not Prescribed, Reason Not Specified
              - Yes
                - Reporting Met + Performance Not Met 4130F-3P or equivalent (2 episodes) c
              - No
            - Reporting Not Met. Quality Data Code or equivalent not reported (1 episode)

**SAMPLE CALCULATIONS:**

**Reporting Rate**

\[
\text{Performance Met (a=4 episodes) + Performance Exclusion (b^1+b^2=1 episode) + Performance Not Met (c=2 episodes) = 7 episodes, } \quad 98.50% \\
\text{Eligible Population } \div \text{ Denominator (d=8 episodes) = 8 episodes}
\]

**Performance Rate**

\[
\text{Performance Met (a=4 episodes)} \quad \text{Reporting Numerator (7 episodes) } \quad \text{Performance Exclusion (b^1+b^2=1 episode) } \quad = \quad 4 \text{ episodes } = \quad 66.67%
\]

*See the posted Measure Specification for specific coding and instructions to report this measure.

NOTE: Reporting Frequency: Episode

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The measure diagrams were developed by CMS as a supplemental resource to be used in conjunction with the measure specifications. They should not be used alone or as a substitution for the measure specification.

v2
2016 Claims/Registry Individual Measure Flow
PQRS #91 NQF #0653: Acute Otitis Externa (AOE): Topical Therapy

Please refer to the specific section of the Measure Specification to identify the denominator and numerator information for use in reporting this Individual Measure.

1. **Start with Denominator**

2. **Check Patient Age:**
   a. If the Age is greater than or equal to 2 years of age at Date of Service and equals No during the measurement period, do not include in Eligible Patient Population. Stop Processing.
   b. If the Age is greater than or equal to 2 years of age at Date of Service and equals Yes during the measurement period, proceed to check Patient Diagnosis.

3. **Check Patient Diagnosis:**
   a. If Diagnosis for AOE as Listed in the Denominator equals No, do not include in Eligible Patient Population. Stop Processing.
   b. If Diagnosis for AOE as Listed in the Denominator equals Yes, proceed to Check Encounter Performed.

4. **Check Encounter Performed:**
   a. If Encounter as Listed in Denominator equals No, do not include in Eligible Patient Population. Stop Processing.
   b. If Encounter as Listed in Denominator equals Yes, include in the Eligible population.

5. **Denominator Population:**
   a. Denominator population is all Eligible Patients in the denominator. Denominator is represented as Denominator in the Sample Calculation listed at the end of this document. Letter d equals 8 episodes in the sample calculation.

6. **Start Numerator**

7. **Check Topical Preparations (including Over the Counter) Prescribed for AOE:**
   a. If Topical Preparations (including Over the Counter) Prescribed for AOE equals Yes, include in Reporting Met and Performance Met.
   b. Reporting Met and Performance Met letter is represented in the Reporting Rate and Performance Rate in the Sample Calculation listed at the end of this document. Letter a equals 4 episodes in Sample Calculation.
   c. If Topical Preparations (including Over the Counter) Prescribed for AOE equals No, proceed to Documentation of Medical Reason for Not Prescribing Topical Preparations (Including Over the Counter) for AOE.

8. **Check Documentation of Medical Reason for Not Prescribing Topical Preparations (Including Over the Counter) for AOE:**
a. If Documentation of Medical Reason for Not Prescribing Topical Preparations for AOE equals Yes, include in the Reporting Met and Performance Exclusion.

b. Reporting Met and Performance Exclusion is represented in the Reporting Rate and Performance Rate in the Sample Calculation listed at the end of this document. Letter b1 equals 1 episode in the Sample Calculation.

c. If Documentation of Medical Reason for Not Prescribing Topical Preparations (Including Over the Counter) for AOE equals No, proceed to Documentation of Patient Reason for Not Prescribing Topical Preparations (Including Over the Counter) for AOE.

9. Check Documentation of Patient Reason for Not Prescribing Topical Preparations (Including Over the Counter) for AOE:

a. If Documentation of Patient Reason for Not Prescribing Topical Preparations (Including Over the Counter) for AOE equals Yes, include in the Reporting Met and Performance Exclusion.

b. Reporting Met and Performance Exclusion is represented in the Reporting Rate and Performance Rate in the Sample Calculation listed at the end of this document. Letter b2 equals 0 episodes in the Sample Calculation.

c. If Documentation of Patient Reason for Not Prescribing Topical Preparations (Including Over the Counter) for AOE equals No, proceed to Topical Preparations for AOE Not Prescribed, Reason Not Specified.

10. Check Topical Preparations (Including Over the Counter) for AOE Not Prescribed, Reason Not Specified:

a. If Topical Preparations (Including Over the Counter) for AOE Not Prescribed, Reason Not Specified equals Yes, include in the Reporting Met and Performance Not Met.

b. Reporting Met and Performance Not Met is represented in the Reporting Rate in the Sample Calculation listed at the end of this document. Letter c equals 2 episodes in the Sample Calculation.

c. If Topical Preparations (Including Over the Counter) for AOE Not Prescribed, Reason Not Specified equals No, proceed to Reporting Not Met.

11. Check Reporting Not Met:

a. If Reporting Not Met, the Quality Data Code or equivalent was not reported. 1 episode has been subtracted from the reporting numerator in sample calculation.

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**SAMPLE CALCULATIONS:**

**Reporting Rate**

\[
\text{Performance Met (a=4 episodes) + Performance Exclusion (b^1+b^2=1 episode) + Performance Not Met (c=2 episodes)} = 7 \text{ episodes, } \frac{87.50\%}{8 \text{ episodes}}
\]

**Performance Rate**

\[
\frac{\text{Performance Met (a=4 episodes)}}{\text{Reporting Numerator (7 episodes) - Performance Exclusion (b^1+b^2=1 episode)}} = \frac{4 \text{ episodes}}{6 \text{ episodes}} = 66.67\%
\]