

Oregon Health Plan Prioritized List Changes Management of Chronic Otitis Media with Effusion in Children

The Health Evidence Review Commission approved the following changes to the Prioritized List of Health Services on October 11, 2012, based on the approved coverage guidance, “Management of Chronic Otitis Media with Effusion in Children.” The changes will take effect for the Oregon Health Plan on April 1, 2013.

New guideline note:

GUIDELINE NOTE: CHRONIC OTITIS MEDIA WITH EFFUSION

Lines 383,502

Antibiotic and other medication therapy (including antihistamines, decongestants, and nasal steroids) are not indicated for children with chronic otitis media with effusion (OME) (without another appropriate diagnosis).

Patients with specific higher risk conditions (including craniofacial anomalies, Down’s syndrome, and cleft palate, or documented speech and language delay) along with hearing loss and chronic otitis media with effusion are intended to be included on Line 383. Otherwise hearing loss associated with chronic otitis media with effusion (without those specific higher risk conditions) is only included on Line 502.

For coverage to be considered on either Line 383 or Line 502, there should be a 3 to 6 month watchful waiting period after diagnosis of otitis media with effusion, and if documented hearing loss is greater than or equal to 25dB in the better hearing ear, tympanostomy surgery may be indicated, given short- but not long- term improvement in hearing. Formal audiometry is indicated for children with chronic OME present for 3 months or longer. Children with language delay, learning problems, or significant hearing loss should have hearing testing upon diagnosis. Children with chronic OME who are not at risk for language delay (such as those with hearing loss <25dB in the better hearing ear) or developmental delay (should be reexamined at 3- to 6-month intervals until the effusion is no longer present, significant hearing loss is identified, or structural abnormalities of the eardrum or middle ear are suspected).