

**Scope and Target Population:**

Children greater than 3 months to age 18.

**Clinical Highlights and Recommendations:**

- A clinical examination is necessary to diagnose acute otitis media. Diagnosis should be made with pneumatic otoscopy.
- Educate parents on measures to prevent the occurrence of otitis media.
- Children with low risk should use a wait-and-see approach to treatment.
- Refer the patient to an ear, nose and throat specialist when the criteria are met.

**Priority Aims:**

1. Increase the percentage of patients with a diagnosis of acute otitis media who were advised to "wait and see."
2. Improve appropriate antibiotic usage for otitis media infections.
3. Improve caregivers' knowledge of symptoms suggestive of otitis media, appropriate indicators for a provider visit, risk factors, and outcomes of otitis media.
4. Improve the percentage of patients with otitis media who receive an appropriate referral to an ear, nose and throat specialist.