

Otitis Media Standing Order

Issue date:		Review date:	
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This standing order is not valid after the review date. The review date is one year after the date the order was signed by the issuer.

Standing Order Name	Otitis Media
Rationale	To promptly and appropriately treat children presenting with symptoms assessed as being due to otitis media.
Scope (condition and patient group)	Children > 3 months of age assessed as needing antibiotics to treat otitis media.
Red Flags	Severe or persistent symptoms High fever Symptoms in an infant Dizziness or clumsiness Visible swelling around the ear Lethargy or unusual behaviour
Assessment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> History of fever, severe earache, upper respiratory infection, discharge. Otoscopic examination: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> inflamed bulging drum pus in middle ear If there is a discharge, differentiate between acute otitis externa and acute otitis media with perforation. In acute otitis externa there will be pain on movement of the ear canal and canal oedema. If a perforation, consider taking a swab. Consider antibiotics in the following patients: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> for children at high risk such as those with systemic symptoms aged < six months aged less than two years with severe or bilateral disease, or with perforation and/or otorrhoea unwell children > 2 years with high fever, severe pain, or discharging ear should be treated. Who have not improved following 48 hours of watchful waiting children who have had multiple episodes of otitis media.
Indication	Antibiotic treatment for otitis media
Medicine	Amoxicillin
Dosage instructions	30mg/kg THREE times daily for 7 days. Maximum: 500mg per dose
Route of administration	Oral
Quantity to be given	7 days
Contraindications	Allergy to penicillin's
Precautions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The daily dose of amoxicillin has been increased due to increasing antibiotic resistance.
Indication	If recent antibiotic treatment or penicillin allergic
Medicine	Trimethoprim + sulfamethoxazole (Co-trimoxazole) 40+200 mg/5 mL
Dosage instructions	<u>Child > 3 months</u> : 0.5 mL/kg/dose oral liquid TWICE daily for 7 days
Route of administration	Oral
Quantity to be given	7 days
Contraindications	Avoid in infants < 6 weeks old Acute porphyria

Precautions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain adequate fluid intake Discontinue immediately if blood disorders or rash develop
Indication	If there is discharge from perforation
Medicine	Sofradex (dexamethasone + framycetin + gramicidin) ear drops
Dosage instructions	Instil FOUR drops FOUR times daily into the affected ear/s for 7 days.
Route of administration	Ear drops
Quantity to be given	1 x original pack
Contraindications	Do not use if there is a perforation and no discharge, i.e. a dry middle ear
Precautions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tilt head to side with the affected ear upwards then apply drops. Maintain this position for at least 30 seconds to allow penetration of drops into the external ear canal.
Additional information	If pain is an issue, see the Pain Standing Order
Follow-up	<p>Parents should be advised to return for re-assessment if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the infection is not improving following the course of antibiotic treatment the child develops worsening systemic symptoms or pain. <p>If perforation of ear, check to see if perforation has healed after 2 to 3 weeks</p>
Countersigning and auditing	<p>Countersigning is not required. Audited monthly.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Countersigning is required within XX days</p>
Competency/training requirements	All nurses working under this standing order must be signed off as competent to do so by the issuer and have had specific training in this standing order.
Supporting documentation	<p>Healthpathways at www.healthpathways.org.nz</p> <p>Best Practice Journal at www.bpac.org.nz</p> <p>New Zealand Formulary at www.nzf.org.nz</p> <p>Individual medicine data sheets at www.medsafe.govt.nz</p> <p>Standing Order Guidelines, Ministry of Health, 2012</p> <p>Medicines (Standing Order) Regulations 2012 (Standing Order Regulations)</p>
Definition of terms used in standing order	<p><u>Acute otitis media</u>- is an infection involving the middle ear space and is a common complication of viral respiratory illnesses.</p> <p><u>Porphyria</u>- a rare hereditary disease in which there is abnormal metabolism of the blood pigment haemoglobin. Porphyrins are excreted in the urine, which becomes dark; other symptoms include mental disturbances and extreme sensitivity of the skin to light.</p> <p><u>Otorrhoea</u>- any discharge (from clear to purulent) from the ear following a perforation of the tympanic membrane</p> <p><u>Tympanic membrane</u>- a thin membrane separating the middle ear from the inner part of the external auditory canal</p>

Medical Centre or Clinic: _____

Signed by issuers

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

Nurses operating under this standing order

Only Registered nurses working within the above medical centre or clinic are authorised to administer medication under this standing order.

We the undersigned agree that we have read, understood and will comply with this standing order and all associated documents.

Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____