



Queensland
Government

Royal Children's Hospital
Brisbane

Clinics available in
Children's Health
Services:

ENT

Consultant Clinics

Otitis externa: All ages

Initial work-up	Pre-referral treatment	Refer when
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History – usually due to water contamination following swimming or children with dermatitis of the external ear canal • Presents with inflammation of the ear canal and pre-auricular tenderness • Swab ear discharge for microscopy/culture and sensitivity • If copious pus consider perforated tympanic membrane 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ear toilet • Keep ear dry • Topical antibiotics (refer to Therapeutic Guidelines) • An ear wick should be inserted when the ear canal is very oedematous (to maintain patency of the ear canal and allow topical antibiotics to enter the ear canal) and moistened frequently with topical antibiotics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ear pain is severe and not relieved by regular analgesics • Cellulitis has extended beyond the ear canal. Child will need IV antibiotics • Bring pathology results if done

Clinical Advice: Tel (07) 3636 3777 and ask for Paediatric ENT Registrar or A/H (07) 3636 9005 Emergency Department

Referral Form Download: http://www.health.qld.gov.au/rch/professionals/gp_referrals.asp

Send Referrals to: Medical Objects Address – QHEALTH, ROYAL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL Fax: (07) 3636 7811 Mail: Outpatients Department
HealthLink Address - qldrchld Royal Children's Hospital
Herston Rd, HERSTON 4029

Provision of
named referrals for
all patients
referred to the RCH
will expedite
patient access

Paediatrics Pre-referral Guidelines – Otolaryngology



Contact us

RCH Switchboard	(07) 3636 3777
Emergency Department	
• GPs only (clinical advice)	(07) 3636 9005
• Triage nurse	(07) 3636 7900
• ED Admission enquiries	(07) 3636 7055
Admission Enquiries	(07) 3636 8307
Admission Enquiries After Hours (via the RCH Main Switch)	(07) 3636 3449 Pager 42156
Poisons Information Centre	131 126
Seriously Unwell Child: RCH Emergency Department	(07) 3636 9005

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These guidelines were reviewed and developed by specialists at the Royal Children's Hospital and reviewed by a working group of metropolitan general practitioners in Queensland.

Feedback or suggestions welcomed. Contact the **Centre for Healthcare Excellence**: CHS_CHE@health.qld.gov.au

Last reviewed: June 2010

References

Paediatric Handbook (2003)
Ear, Nose and Throat Conditions, Chapter 21 (pp312-324)
Robert Berkowitz and Michael Marks
Seventh Edition, Blackwell Publishing
By the staff of the Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne, Australia

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