



Queensland
Government

Royal Children's Hospital
Brisbane

Clinics available in
Children's Health
Services:

ENT

Consultant Clinics

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

Otitis media – acute suppurative otitis media (ASOM): All ages

Initial work-up	Pre-referral treatment	Refer when
<p>History – very often preceded by a viral respiratory tract infection</p> <p>Physical examination</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Middle ear effusion – loss of normal tympanic membrane translucency • Loss of light reflex • Yellowish discolouration tympanic membrane • Ear discharge if present – swab microscopy/culture/sensitivity if indicated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequate analgesia – paracetamol 15 mg/kg 4 - 6 hourly (max 60 mg/kg/day) as required • Acute symptoms usually resolve within 24 hours in most cases • Antibiotics: Commence if child is less than 6 months, if distress continues beyond 24-48 hours in older children, or if the child is more unwell initially. Amoxicillin 15 mg/kg (max 500 mg) orally, 8-hourly for 5 days. If allergic to penicillin, cefaclor 10 mg/kg up to 250 mg orally, 8-hourly for 5 days. Refer to Therapeutic Guidelines • Be cautious of accepting ASOM as the sole diagnosis in an unwell infant with a fever. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If medical treatment has been unsuccessful and the child remains symptomatically unwell • Bring results of investigations done • Greater than 5 episodes of acute otitis media in 12 months period • Urgent referral as a result of ASOM complications (i.e mastoiditis , facial nerve palsy)

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

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

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

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

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