



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 with effusion: All ages**

Initial work-up	Pre-referral treatment	Refer when
<p>Usually associated with noticeable hearing loss. A middle ear effusion will be present in approximately:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 80% of cases at 2 weeks following ASOM</li> <li>• 40% at 1 month</li> <li>• 20% at 2 months</li> <li>• 10% at 3 months</li> </ul> <p>Audiology (hearing test) should be considered if hearing loss is present &gt; 3 months or sooner if there is evidence of speech delay.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review at 3 months – for persistent middle ear effusion or hearing loss</li> <li>• It is well proven that antihistamines, decongestants and antibiotics have no beneficial effect in the management of otitis media.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child is symptomatic due to hearing loss, and this is thought likely to be present for a significant period of time in the future</li> <li>• Child has middle ear effusion persisting longer than 3 months or earlier if there is speech delay.</li> <li>• Please ensure that the patient or parent brings audiology test results (if available) on attendance at hospital.</li> </ul>

**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](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**

## Paediatrics Pre-referral Guidelines – Otolaryngology



### Contact us

RCH Switchboard	(07) 3636 3777
<b>Emergency Department</b>	
• 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
<b>Seriously Unwell Child: RCH Emergency Department</b>	<b>(07) 3636 9005</b>

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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](mailto: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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