



## **AAO43: Otolaryngologic Surgical Procedures: Avoidance of Unnecessary Antibiotic Use**

**High Priority Status:** Yes / Appropriate Use  
**CBE Number:** N/A

### **Measure Description:**

Percentage of patients aged 1 year and older who underwent an otolaryngologic surgical procedure and did not receive perioperative or postoperative antibiotics when there were no clinical indications, based on evidence-based guidelines.

### **Instructions:**

This measure is to be submitted **each time** a patient underwent an otolaryngologic surgical procedure during the performance period. This measure may be submitted by clinicians based on the services provided and the measure-specific denominator coding.

### **Denominator:**

Patients aged 1 year and older who underwent an otolaryngologic surgical procedure where antibiotic prophylaxis is not recommended based on evidence and/or clinical guidelines

### **Denominator Exclusion:**

Procedures involving extensive tissue disruption or placement of implants or hardware (e.g., cochlear implants or trauma cases)

### **Denominator Criteria:**

Patients aged 1 year and older

**AND**

Procedure: [Otolaryngologic surgical procedures where antibiotic prophylaxis is not recommended](#)

### **AND NOT**

Procedure: [Extensive tissue disruption](#) or [placement of implants or hardware](#)

[For a list of codes that qualify as denominator eligible visits, reference Addendum attached.](#)

### **Numerator:**

Patients who did not receive perioperative or postoperative antibiotics

### **Denominator Exceptions:**

Documentation of a medical reason for administering antibiotics (i.e., active infection, immunocompromised patient, etc.)

### **Measure Classifications**

Submission Pathway: Traditional MIPS

Measure Type: Process

High Priority Type: Appropriate Use

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Care Setting(s): Ambulatory; Ambulatory Care: Clinician Office/Clinic; Ambulatory Care: Hospital; Ambulatory Surgical Center; Hospital Outpatient; Office Based Surgery Center; Outpatient Services  
Includes Telehealth: No

Number of Performance Rates: 1

Inverse measure: No

Continuous measure: No

Proportional measure: Yes

Ratio measure: No

Risk Adjusted measure: No

### **Clinical Recommendation Statement:**

Several high-quality guidelines and systematic reviews recommend against the routine use of perioperative antibiotics for many common otolaryngology surgical procedures, particularly those classified as clean or low-risk. The American Academy of Otolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery and the Infectious Diseases Society of America both strongly recommend against routine perioperative antibiotics for tonsillectomy in children, citing high-level evidence that antibiotics do not reduce postoperative morbidity, pain, or bleeding, and emphasizing the importance of antimicrobial stewardship. Similarly, the Infectious Diseases Society of America guideline states that antibiotic prophylaxis is not recommended for clean head and neck procedures such as thyroidectomy, parathyroidectomy, and salivary gland excisions, as well as for tonsillectomy, adenoidectomy, septoplasty, and endoscopic sinus surgery, due to lack of benefit in reducing surgical site infections.

Bratzler, D. W., Dellinger, E. P., Olsen, K. M., et al. (2013). Clinical practice guidelines for antimicrobial prophylaxis in surgery. *American Journal of Health-System Pharmacy*, 70(3), 195–283.  
<https://doi.org/10.2146/ajhp120568>

Mitchell, R. B., Archer, S. M., Ishman, S. L., et al. (2019). Clinical practice guideline: Tonsillectomy in children (update). *Otolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery*, 160(1\_suppl), S1–S42.  
<https://doi.org/10.1177/0194599818801757>

### **Rationale:**

Recent studies highlight that, for example, up to 83% of patients undergoing clean ENT surgeries in some settings receive antibiotics unnecessarily, and prolonged courses are common even when a single perioperative dose (or none) is indicated. Tonsillectomy in children is a particularly well-documented example, with historical prescribing rates as high as 79% despite strong evidence and guideline recommendations against routine perioperative antibiotics.[4] Similarly, clean head and neck surgeries (e.g., thyroidectomy, parathyroidectomy) and clean otologic procedures (e.g., tympanoplasty, stapedectomy) are often subject to unnecessary antibiotic use. In summary, the highest rates of inappropriate antibiotic prescribing are seen in clean otolaryngology procedures where guidelines recommend against prophylaxis, with tonsillectomy, adenoidectomy, septoplasty, thyroidectomy, and parathyroidectomy being the most prominent examples.

Bratzler, D. W., Dellinger, E. P., Olsen, K. M., et al. (2013). Clinical practice guidelines for antimicrobial prophylaxis in surgery. *American Journal of Health-System Pharmacy*, 70(3), 195–283.  
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<https://doi.org/10.1177/0194599818801757>

Patel, P. N., Jayawardena, A. D. L., Walden, R. L., Penn, E. B., & Francis, D. O. (2018). Evidence-based use of perioperative antibiotics in otolaryngology. *Otolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery*, 158(5), 783–800. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0194599817753610>

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Yalamanchi, P., Parent, A., & Thorne, M. (2020). Optimization of delivery of pediatric otolaryngology surgical antibiotic prophylaxis. *Otolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery*, 163(2), 275–279. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0194599820933191>

Oppelaar, M. C., Zijtveld, C., Kuipers, S., et al. (2019). Evaluation of prolonged vs short courses of antibiotic prophylaxis following ear, nose, throat, and oral and maxillofacial surgery: A systematic review and meta-analysis. *JAMA Otolaryngology–Head & Neck Surgery*, 145(7), 610–616. <https://doi.org/10.1001/jamaoto.2019.0879>

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## Addendum

Otolaryngologic Surgical Procedures			
Measure Element	Code Type	Code	Code Description
Denominator	CPT	42825	Tonsillectomy primary/secondary; younger than age 12
Denominator	CPT	42826	Tonsillectomy primary/secondary; age 12 or over
Denominator	CPT	42830	Adenoidectomy primary; younger than age 12
Denominator	CPT	42831	Adenoidectomy primary; age 12 or over
Denominator	CPT	42835	Adenoidectomy secondary; younger than age 12
Denominator	CPT	42836	Adenoidectomy secondary; age 12 or over
Denominator	CPT	42820	Tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy; younger than age 12
Denominator	CPT	42821	Tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy; age 12 or over
Denominator	CPT	30520	Septoplasty or submucous resection, with or without cartilage scoring, contouring or replacement with graft
Denominator	CPT	30400	Rhinoplasty, primary; lateral and alar cartilages and/or elevation of nasal tip
Denominator	CPT	31253	Nasal/sinus endoscopy, surgical with ethmoidectomy; total (anterior and posterior), including frontal sinus exploration, with removal of tissue from frontal sinus, when performed
Denominator	CPT	31254	Nasal/sinus endoscopy, surgical with ethmoidectomy; partial (anterior)
Denominator	CPT	31255	Nasal/sinus endoscopy, surgical with ethmoidectomy; total (anterior and posterior)
Denominator	CPT	31267	Nasal/sinus endoscopy, surgical, with maxillary antrostomy; with removal of tissue from maxillary sinus
Denominator	CPT	31276	Nasal/sinus endoscopy, surgical, with frontal sinus exploration, including removal of tissue from frontal sinus, when performed
Denominator	CPT	31287	Nasal/sinus endoscopy, surgical, with sphenoidotomy;

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Denominator	CPT	31288	Nasal/sinus endoscopy, surgical, with sphenoidotomy; with removal of tissue from the sphenoid sinus
Denominator	CPT	69436	Tympanostomy (requiring insertion of ventilating tube), general anesthesia
Denominator	CPT	69433	Tympanostomy (requiring insertion of ventilating tube), local or topical anesthesia
Denominator	CPT	69631	Tympanoplasty without mastoidectomy (including canalplasty, atticotomy and/or middle ear surgery), initial or revision; without ossicular chain reconstruction
Denominator	CPT	69632	Tympanoplasty without mastoidectomy (including canalplasty, atticotomy and/or middle ear surgery), initial or revision; with ossicular chain reconstruction (eg, postfenestration)
Denominator	CPT	69633	Tympanoplasty without mastoidectomy (including canalplasty, atticotomy and/or middle ear surgery), initial or revision; with ossicular chain reconstruction and synthetic prosthesis (eg, partial ossicular replacement prosthesis [PORP], total ossicular replacement prosthesis [TORP])
Denominator	CPT	69635	Tympanoplasty with antrotomy or mastoidotomy (including canalplasty, atticotomy, middle ear surgery, and/or tympanic membrane repair); without ossicular chain reconstruction
Denominator	CPT	69636	Tympanoplasty with antrotomy or mastoidotomy (including canalplasty, atticotomy, middle ear surgery, and/or tympanic membrane repair); with ossicular chain reconstruction
Denominator	CPT	69637	Tympanoplasty with antrotomy or mastoidotomy (including canalplasty, atticotomy, middle ear surgery, and/or tympanic membrane repair); with ossicular chain reconstruction and synthetic prosthesis (eg, partial ossicular replacement prosthesis [PORP], total ossicular replacement prosthesis [TORP])
Denominator	CPT	69641	Tympanoplasty with mastoidectomy (including canalplasty, middle ear surgery, tympanic membrane repair); without ossicular chain reconstruction
Denominator	CPT	69642	Tympanoplasty with mastoidectomy (including canalplasty, middle ear surgery, tympanic membrane repair); with ossicular chain reconstruction

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Denominator	CPT	69643	Tympanoplasty with mastoidectomy (including canalplasty, middle ear surgery, tympanic membrane repair); with intact or reconstructed wall, without ossicular chain reconstruction
Denominator	CPT	69644	Tympanoplasty with mastoidectomy (including canalplasty, middle ear surgery, tympanic membrane repair); with intact or reconstructed canal wall, with ossicular chain reconstruction
Denominator	CPT	69645	Tympanoplasty with mastoidectomy (including canalplasty, middle ear surgery, tympanic membrane repair); radical or complete, without ossicular chain reconstruction
Denominator	CPT	69646	Tympanoplasty with mastoidectomy (including canalplasty, middle ear surgery, tympanic membrane repair); radical or complete, with ossicular chain reconstruction
Denominator	CPT	69620	Myringoplasty (surgery confined to drumhead and donor area)
Denominator	CPT	69660	Stapedectomy or stapedotomy with reestablishment of ossicular continuity, with or without use of foreign material;
Denominator	CPT	69661	Stapedectomy or stapedotomy with reestablishment of ossicular continuity, with or without use of foreign material; with footplate drill out
Denominator	CPT	69501	Transmastoid antrotomy (simple mastoidectomy)
Denominator	CPT	69502	Mastoidectomy; complete
Denominator	CPT	69505	Mastoidectomy; modified radical
Denominator	CPT	69511	Mastoidectomy; radical
Denominator	CPT	60220	Total thyroid lobectomy, unilateral; with or without isthmusectomy
Denominator	CPT	60225	Total thyroid lobectomy, unilateral; with contralateral subtotal lobectomy, including isthmusectomy
Denominator	CPT	60240	Thyroidectomy, total or complete
Denominator	CPT	60252	Thyroidectomy, total or subtotal for malignancy; with limited neck dissection
Denominator	CPT	60254	Thyroidectomy, total or subtotal for malignancy; with radical neck dissection
Denominator	CPT	60500	Parathyroidectomy or exploration of parathyroid(s)

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Denominator	CPT	60502	Parathyroidectomy or exploration of parathyroid(s); re-exploration
Denominator	CPT	60505	Parathyroidectomy or exploration of parathyroid(s); with mediastinal exploration, sternal split or transthoracic approach
Denominator	CPT	42440	Excision of submandibular (submaxillary) gland
Denominator	CPT	42450	Excision of sublingual gland
Denominator	CPT	42420	Excision of parotid tumor or parotid gland; total, with dissection and preservation of facial nerve
Denominator	CPT	42425	Excision of parotid tumor or parotid gland; total, en bloc removal with sacrifice of facial nerve
Denominator	CPT	21555	Excision, tumor, soft tissue of neck or anterior thorax, subcutaneous; less than 3 cm
Denominator	CPT	21552	Excision, tumor, soft tissue of neck or anterior thorax, subcutaneous; 3 cm or greater
Denominator	CPT	21554	Excision, tumor, soft tissue of neck or anterior thorax, subfascial (eg, intramuscular); 5 cm or greater
Denominator	CPT	21556	Excision, tumor, soft tissue of neck or anterior thorax, subfascial (eg, intramuscular); less than 5 cm
Denominator	CPT	21557	Radical resection of tumor (eg, sarcoma), soft tissue of neck or anterior thorax; less than 5 cm
Denominator	CPT	21558	Radical resection of tumor (eg, sarcoma), soft tissue of neck or anterior thorax; 5 cm or greater
Denominator	CPT	31545	Laryngoscopy, direct, operative, with operating microscope or telescope, with submucosal removal of non-neoplastic lesion(s) of vocal cord; reconstruction with local tissue flap(s)
Denominator	CPT	31546	Laryngoscopy, direct, operative, with operating microscope or telescope, with submucosal removal of non-neoplastic lesion(s) of vocal cord; reconstruction with graft(s) (includes obtaining autograft)
Denominator	CPT	31551	Laryngoplasty; for laryngeal stenosis, with graft, without indwelling stent placement, younger than 12 years of age
Denominator	CPT	31552	Laryngoplasty; for laryngeal stenosis, with graft, without indwelling stent placement, age 12 years or older
Denominator	CPT	31553	Laryngoplasty; for laryngeal stenosis, with graft, with indwelling stent placement, younger than 12 years of age

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Denominator	CPT	31554	Laryngoplasty; for laryngeal stenosis, with graft, with indwelling stent placement, age 12 years or older
Denominator	CPT	31571	Laryngoscopy, direct, with injection into vocal cord(s), therapeutic; with operating microscope or telescope
Denominator	CPT	31580	Laryngoplasty; for laryngeal web, with indwelling keel or stent insertion
Denominator	CPT	31584	Laryngoplasty; with open reduction and fixation of (eg, plating) fracture, includes tracheostomy, if performed
Denominator	CPT	31587	Laryngoplasty, cricoid split, without graft placement
Denominator	CPT	31590	Laryngeal reinnervation by neuromuscular pedicle
Denominator	CPT	31591	Laryngoplasty, medialization, unilateral
Denominator	CPT	21206	Osteotomy, maxilla, segmental (eg, Wassmund or Schuchard)
Denominator	CPT	21208	Osteoplasty, facial bones; augmentation (autograft, allograft, or prosthetic implant)
Denominator	CPT	42810	Excision branchial cleft cyst or vestige, confined to skin and subcutaneous tissues
Denominator	CPT	42815	Excision branchial cleft cyst, vestige, or fistula, extending beneath subcutaneous tissues and/or into pharynx
Denominator	CPT	38500	Biopsy or excision of lymph node(s); open, superficial
Denominator	CPT	38505	Biopsy or excision of lymph node(s); by needle, superficial (eg, cervical, inguinal, axillary)

### Extensive Tissue Disruption/Trauma

Denominator Exclusion	ICD10CM	S02.92XB	Unspecified fracture of facial bones, initial encounter for open fracture
Denominator Exclusion	ICD10CM	S02.81XB	Fracture of other specified skull and facial bones, right side, initial encounter for open fracture
Denominator Exclusion	ICD10CM	S02.82XB	Fracture of other specified skull and facial bones, left side, initial encounter for open fracture
Denominator Exclusion	ICD10CM	S02.80XB	Fracture of other specified skull and facial bones, unspecified side, initial encounter for open fracture

### Placement of Implants or Hardware

Denominator Exclusion	CPT	69930	Cochlear device implantation, with or without mastoidectomy
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Denominator Exclusion	CPT	69714	Implantation, osseointegrated implant, skull; with percutaneous attachment to external speech processor
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