

Otitis Media Episode

Executive Summary

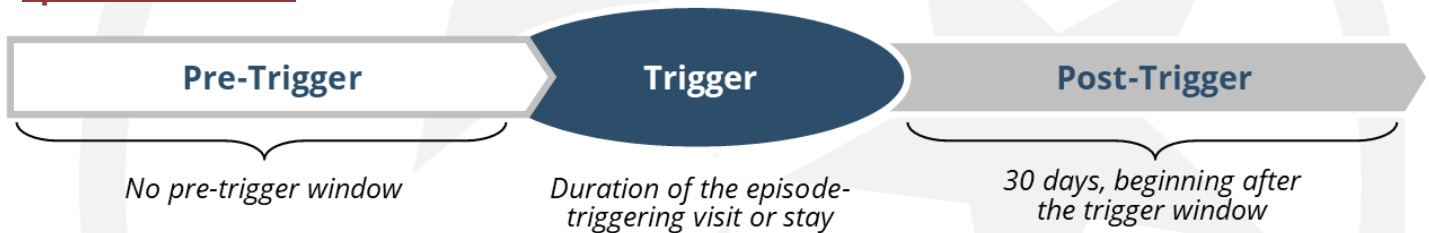
Episode Design

- **Trigger:** otitis media diagnosis
- **Quarterback type:** professional (provider who makes the diagnosis)
- **Care included:** all related care including anesthesia, imaging and testing, evaluation and management, and medications

Sources of Value

- Appropriate use of diagnostic testing (e.g., tympanometry when indicated)
- Appropriate use of antibiotics
- Appropriate use of supportive therapy (e.g., analgesics)
- Appropriate referral to specialist and/or procedural care, including tympanostomy
- Appropriate follow-up care
- Appropriate continued medication management
- Reduction in potentially avoidable complications and repeat events

Episode Duration



Quality Metrics

Tied to Gain-Sharing

- OME episodes without antibiotics filled (higher rate is better)
- Non-OME episodes with amoxicillin filled (higher rate is better)

Informational Only

- OME episodes without oral corticosteroid filled
- Tympanostomy when indicated
- Overall tympanostomy
- Follow-up encounter
- Non-OME episodes without macrolide filled

Making Fair Comparisons

Exclusions

- Business exclusions: inconsistent enrollment, third-party liability, dual eligibility, FQHC/RHC, no PAP ID, incomplete episodes, overlapping episodes
- Clinical exclusions: different care pathway (e.g., COVID-19, inpatient or observation setting of initial diagnosis, congenital Eustachian tube anomalies, cancer of brain and nervous system, cancer of breast, cancer of colon, coma, cystic fibrosis, Hodgkin's disease, malignant neoplasm without specification, other non-epithelial cancer of the skin, paralysis, active cancer management)
- Patient exclusions: age (less than 6 months or greater than 20 years old), death, left against medical advice
- High-cost outlier: episodes with risk-adjusted spend greater than three standard deviations above the average risk-adjusted episode spend for valid episodes are excluded.

Risk adjustment is used to ensure appropriate comparisons between patients.

To learn more about the episode's design, please reference the Detailed Business Requirements (DBR) and Configuration File on our website at <https://www.tn.gov/tenncare/health-care-innovation/episodes-of-care/searchable-episodes-table.html>.