

POLICY & PROCEDURE



TITLE: Ear Irrigation				
Scope/Purpose: To ensure safe and effective cleaning of the ear.				
Division/Department: All HealthPOiNT Clinics			Policy/Procedure #:	
Original Date:			Replacement for:	
Date Reviewed:	Date Revised:	Implementation:	CPIC Approved:	Board Approved:
	October 3 rd , 2013	10/25/2013	10/25/2013	
Responsible Party: Director Clinical QA ; CMO				

DEFINITIONS:

Ear irrigations are used to remove cerumen (wax) or foreign bodies that occlude the ear canal and prevent sound from reaching the tympanic membrane (ear drum).

POLICY:

When performing an ear wash, staff will use proper technique and standard precautions during the procedure.

PROCEDURE:

Supplies needed:

Otoscope
Container for water solution
Blue pad or chux
Gloves
Elephant Ear washer system

1. Obtain supplies needed and place in patient exam room.
2. Explain procedure to patient.
3. Wash hands and apply exam gloves.
4. Fill container with warm water. For adults add a little soap to the warm water.
5. Do not perform ear irrigation on infants (0-1 years old). For older child or adult, have the patient sit up and drape the blue pad around the neck to avoid spilling water on the patient's clothes. Position the basin next to the affected ear during the procedure so that the water can drain into the basin.
6. Place tip of ear washer into the affected ear and gently push water into the ear with quick movements.
7. Have the provider check ears after the procedure is completed. Repeat procedure if needed.

8. After procedure is complete, soak equipment in a soapy solution. Rinse and air-dry. Return to storage area.
9. Remove gloves and wash hands.

RELATED POLICY:

REFERENCES:

See also

deWit, S. C. (2009). *Fundamental concepts and skills for nursing* (3rd ed., pp. 799-800). St. Louis, MO: Saunders.

REQUIRED BY:

ATTACHMENTS/ENCLOSURES:

POLICY/PROCEDURE TRACKING FORM (to be added as last page of each P&P for documentation of changes)

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Date of Revision		Description of Changes		