Insertion of Grommets for Otitis Media with Effusion (OME)

Insertion of grommets will only be funded in the following circumstances:

IN CHILDREN

Insertion of grommets will be funded for children with OME where the following criteria are met:

- There is a history of recurrent acute otitis media as defined as three or more acute infections in six months or at least four in a year
  OR
- There has been a period of at least three months watchful waiting from the date of diagnosis of OME (by a GP/Primary Care referrer/Audiologist/ENT surgeon)
  AND
- OME persists after three months
  AND
- the child (who must be over three years of age) suffers from persistent bilateral OME with a hearing level in the better ear of 25-30 dBHL (averaged at 0.5, 1, 2 and 4kHz) or worse confirmed over three months
  OR
- Persistent bilateral OME with hearing loss — less than 25-30 dBHL (averaged at 0.5, 1, 2 and 4kHz) and with significant impact on the child’s developmental, social or educational status.

Children with Downs Syndrome are normally fitted with Hearing Aids.
Children with cleft lip and palate should be managed under tertiary/specialist care.

DO NOT perform adenoidectomy at the same time unless evidence of significant upper respiratory tract symptoms see Section 5.1 Adenoidectomy.

IN ADULTS

Grommet insertion in adults with OME will only be funded in the following circumstances:

- Significant negative middle ear pressure measured on two sequential appointments AND significant ongoing associated pain.
  OR
- Unilateral middle ear effusion where a post nasal space biopsy is required to exclude an underlying malignancy
**Strength of evidence**

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<th>Clinical Effectiveness</th>
<th>Cost Effectiveness</th>
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<td>Moderate</td>
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**Summary of evidence**

Royal College of Surgeons, Otitis Media with Effusion, Commissioning Guide, RCSE, 2013


Grommets for hearing loss associated with Otitis Media with effusion in children, Cochrane Ear, Nose and Throat Disorders Group 2010

NICE guidance on management of children with Down’s Syndrome or cleft lip and palate

file:///C:/Users/DHSCHEWA/Downloads/EN22_Grommets.pdf


**Reason for Requesting a Policy Recommendation:**

Reviewed as part of the Effective Use of Resources Project.

Replaces the CRC Recommendation 05/09: The treatment of Otitis Media with Effusion (OME) in children, with grommets/myringotomy as a High Priority, subject to best practice criteria.

Where a patient is considered to have exceptional need for and capacity to benefit from a treatment that is not routinely funded, a request for individual funding may be made to the Individual Funding Requests Panel. The patient must be made aware that the Panel may not support the request and must not be given any expectation that they will be able to have the treatment until a decision to fund has been received in writing from the Panel.

Further information contact:

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Email: clinicalcommissioning.dhsc@gov.im
Website: www.gov.im/dhscclinicalcommissioning

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