

Division of Medicaid State of Mississippi Provider Policy Manual	New: X Revised: Current:	Date: 05/01/06 Date:
Section: Physician	Section: 55.07 Pages: 1 Cross Reference:	
Subject: Removal of Impacted Cerumen		

Impacted cerumen removal involves the extraction of accumulated hardened cerumen from the external auditory canal by any means, including, but not limited to, irrigation, use of a curette, and/or operating microscope. It is considered medically necessary to remove impacted cerumen only for symptoms directly related to the presence of impacted cerumen. Symptoms include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Earache
- Itching of the ear
- Feeling that the ear is plugged
- Partial hearing loss
- Ringing in the ear
- Otorrhea

Simple removal of non-impacted cerumen is not separately billable and is considered incidental to an evaluation and management service.

Documentation

Documentation must support occlusion, impaction or blockage, of the external auditory canal secondary to cerumen. The presence of earwax, without symptoms, is not sufficient to support need for removal.

Symptoms of wax impaction must be documented in the medical record. The following list includes, but is not limited to:

- Earache
- Itching of the ear
- Feeling that the ear is plugged
- Partial hearing loss
- Ringing in the ear
- Otorrhea

All coverage criteria must be documented in the medical record and made available, upon request, by the Division of Medicaid, and/or its authorized agents.