



## **AAO 17: Advanced Diagnostic Imaging of Bilateral Presbycusis or Symmetric Sensorineural Hearing Loss-Avoidance of Inappropriate Use**

Percentage of patients age 60 years and older with a diagnosis of bilateral presbycusis or symmetric sensorineural hearing loss who were NOT ordered magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) or a computed tomography scan (CT scan) of the brain, temporal bone or internal auditory canal for the primary indication of bilateral presbycusis or symmetric sensorineural hearing loss.

**Quality Domain:** Patient Safety

The focus of this measure is on the reduction of unnecessary imaging studies for patients with a diagnosis of bilateral presbycusis or symmetric sensorineural hearing loss. Reducing unnecessary imaging has the possibility to decrease healthcare expenditures, decrease risk of incidental findings that may lead to additional unnecessary testing or interventions, decrease risk of adverse reactions to gadolinium with MRI scans and decrease radiation exposure from CT scans.

**Denominator:** All patients age 60 years and older with a diagnosis of bilateral presbycusis or symmetric sensorineural hearing loss.

**Denominator Exclusions:** None

**Denominator Exceptions:** Medical reason for doing MRI or CT scan of the brain, temporal bone or internal auditory canal (e.g. evaluation for cochlear implantation or surgical management of hearing loss; patients with focal or other neurological deficits, unilateral or pulsatile tinnitus, vertigo, disequilibrium, dizziness, other cranial nerve deficits; chronic otitis media; mixed hearing loss (e.g. asymmetry of hearing loss or other indications of possible tumor, such as vestibular schwannoma or other skull base lesions); acquired hearing loss with meningitis, measles and mumps, otosclerosis, autoimmune or inflammatory disorders, fluid or infection in the ear (otitis media), tympanic membrane thickening or perforation; use of some antibiotic, antimalarial or cancer chemotherapeutic medications; head injuries or other trauma; long-term exposure to excessive noise; cerumen (ear wax) or other foreign bodies blocking the ear canal; patient undergoing surgical management or work up for surgery.)

**Numerator:** Patients who were NOT ordered magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) or a computed tomography scan (CT scan) of the brain, temporal bone or internal auditory canal for the primary indication of bilateral presbycusis or symmetric sensorineural hearing loss.

**Measure Type:** Process, Traditional, Proportional, High Priority

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