

## Practice Guidelines for the Appropriate Diagnosis and Initial Treatment of Uncomplicated Acute Otitis Media

MVP Health Care, as part of its continuing Quality Improvement Program, has adopted the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) Diagnosis and Management of Acute Otitis Media Clinical Practice Guideline (May, 2004).

This evidence-based clinical practice guideline provides primary care practitioners with recommendations for the management of children 2 months through 12 years of age with Acute Otitis Media (AOM) without signs or symptoms of systemic illness unrelated to the middle ear. The focus of the guideline is the appropriate diagnosis and initial treatment of a child presenting with symptoms of AOM. The guideline recommendations address pain management, initial observation, i.e. 'watchful waiting' versus antibiotic treatment, appropriate choice of antibacterial agent(s) and preventive measures. Additional guidance is provided in choosing an antibacterial agent when an alternative to amoxicillin is indicated.

This guideline is available on the AAP website at [www.aap.org](http://www.aap.org) under the AAP Policy icon which is located directly beneath the Home icon. The guideline also can be located by using the AAP search function and choosing 'policy statements,' key word 'Otitis.'

*This guideline is not intended to replace the role of clinical judgment by the physician in the management of this, or any other disease entity. It is an educational guideline to assist in the delivery of good medical care. **All treatment decisions are ultimately up to the physician.*** Where medication recommendations are made, please refer to each health plan's formulary for coverage considerations.

MVP Health Care updates its clinical guidelines at least every two years. The review process is also initiated when new scientific evidence or national standards are published. Practitioners are alerted via the web site and by written notices from the plan via fax or newsletter. A hard copy of the clinical guideline can be requested by calling the MVP Quality Improvement Department at 1 (800) 777-4793 extension 2602.