



Otoacoustic Emission Testing for Pediatric Populations in the Primary Care Setting

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Definitions

Auditory brainstem response (ABR) —measures the brain's activity in response to the sounds. ABR plays an important role in both identification and assessment, particularly with children too young or too developmentally delayed for reliable assessment using conditioned behavioral techniques.

Otoacoustic emissions testing (OAE) — provides a physiologic means of assessing preneural auditory function. OAE measures an acoustic response that is produced by the inner ear (cochlea), which in essence bounces back out of the ear in response to a sound stimulus. Because OAEs are generated in the cochlea, they provide information that further defines auditory system integrity and sensitivity.

Guideline

Members are eligible for OAE testing to screen for hearing disorders as follows:

1. 0–21 years of age.
2. 1-time per year.

Limitations/Exclusions

The auditory steady-state response test (a new evoked-potential test) is not considered medically necessary as the sole measure of auditory status in newborn and infant populations, as there is insufficient evidence to support its use.

Applicable Procedure Codes

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| 92587 | Distortion product evoked otoacoustic emissions; limited evaluation (to confirm the presence or absence of hearing disorder, 3-6 frequencies) or transient evoked otoacoustic emissions, with interpretation and report |
| 92588 | Distortion product evoked otoacoustic emissions; comprehensive diagnostic evaluation (quantitative analysis of outer hair cell function by cochlear mapping, minimum of 12 frequencies), with interpretation and report |
| 92558 | Evoked otoacoustic emissions, screening (qualitative measurement of distortion product or transient evoked otoacoustic emissions), automated analysis |

Applicable ICD-10 Diagnosis Codes

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| H90.0 | Conductive hearing loss, bilateral |
| H90.A11 | Conductive hearing loss, unilateral, right ear with restricted hearing on the contralateral side (Eff. 10/01/2016) |
| H90.A12 | Conductive hearing loss, unilateral, left ear with restricted hearing on the contralateral side (Eff. 10/01/2016) |
| H90.A21 | Sensorineural hearing loss, unilateral, right ear, with restricted hearing on the contralateral side (Eff. 10/01/2016) |
| H90.A22 | Sensorineural hearing loss, unilateral, left ear, with restricted hearing on the contralateral side (Eff. 10/01/2016) |
| H90.A31 | Mixed conductive and sensorineural hearing loss, unilateral, right ear with restricted hearing on the contralateral side (Eff. 10/01/2016) |
| H90.A32 | Mixed conductive and sensorineural hearing loss, unilateral, left ear with restricted hearing on the contralateral side (Eff. 10/01/2016) |
| H90.11 | Conductive hearing loss, unilateral, right ear, with unrestricted hearing on the contralateral side |
| H90.12 | Conductive hearing loss, unilateral, left ear, with unrestricted hearing on the contralateral side |
| H90.2 | Conductive hearing loss, unspecified |
| H90.3 | Sensorineural hearing loss, bilateral |
| H90.41 | Sensorineural hearing loss, unilateral, right ear, with unrestricted hearing on the contralateral side |
| H90.42 | Sensorineural hearing loss, unilateral, left ear, with unrestricted hearing on the contralateral side |
| H90.5 | Unspecified sensorineural hearing loss |
| H90.6 | Mixed conductive and sensorineural hearing loss, bilateral |
| H90.71 | Mixed conductive and sensorineural hearing loss, unilateral, right ear, with unrestricted hearing on the contralateral side |
| H90.72 | Mixed conductive and sensorineural hearing loss, unilateral, left ear, with unrestricted hearing on the contralateral side |
| H90.8 | Mixed conductive and sensorineural hearing loss, unspecified |
| H91.90 | Unspecified hearing loss, unspecified ear |
| H91.91 | Unspecified hearing loss, right ear |
| H91.92 | Unspecified hearing loss, left ear |
| H91.93 | Unspecified hearing loss, bilateral |
| Z01.10 | Encounter for examination of ears and hearing without abnormal findings |
| Z01.110 | Encounter for hearing examination following failed hearing screening |
| Z01.118 | Encounter for examination of ears and hearing with other abnormal findings |

References

Specialty-matched clinical peer review.