

 Saskatchewan Ministry of Health Drug Plan and Extended Benefits Branch	Section <i>Pharmacy Professional Services</i>	Reference DP-PPS-6
		Date of Issue January 6, 2025
		Revised June 1, 2026
EAR INFECTION ASSESSMENT AND TREATMENT PROGRAM POLICY and PROCEDURES		

POLICY

- Effective June 1, 2026, the DPEBB revised the program (Otitis Media Assessment and Treatment Program) to the Ear Infection Assessment and Treatment Program, and will pay community pharmacies, an Ear Assessment Reimbursement (EAR) for Acute Otitis Media (AOM) and Acute Otitis Externa (AOE).
- The amount of the EAR paid is in accordance with Schedule B of the Pharmacy Proprietor Agreement that is in effect on the date the service was provided.
- This program must follow the *Regulatory Bylaws of the Saskatchewan College of Pharmacy Professionals* (SCPP) and use the *medSask Acute Otitis Media and Acute Bacterial Otitis Externa Guidelines* (the "Guidelines").
- The EAR is paid when a pharmacist completes an ear assessment (must include a physical assessment).
- The assessment must be completed in-person within the physical space of the pharmacy that meets SCPP [Private Consultation Room Standards](#).
- **No incentives shall be provided** by the Proprietor or an agent on behalf of the Proprietor to any other person in relation to the provision of Ear Infection Assessment and Treatment Program services or related treatments.
"Incentives" means any money, gifts, donations to a charity, rebates, refunds, customer loyalty programs, points, coupons, discounts, goods, dividends, and/or rewards which can be redeemed for a gift or other benefit.

PURPOSE

- To improve patient access to the Saskatchewan healthcare system by supporting pharmacists to practice to their full scope.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

- *The Pharmacy and Pharmacy Disciplines Act*

- *The Prescription Drugs Act (Saskatchewan)*
- *The Drug Schedules Regulations, 1997 Amendment Regulations*
- *The Health Administration Act*

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

- The EAR pays a pharmacy for the work and responsibility associated with a trained pharmacist assessing a patient for ear infections as per the Guidelines.
- The DPEBB places billing thresholds and limitations on the EAR, per patient in 365 days. These thresholds and limitations may not align with the Guidelines.
- Should a prescription be required, the cost of the prescription is subject to the beneficiary's usual medication coverage.

ELIGIBILITY

- A Saskatchewan resident with a valid Health Services Number (HSN)*.

*Exclusions: Residents of a Special-care Home are not eligible for an EAR.

A Special-care Home, formerly referred to as a Long-term Care Facility, is defined as a designated facility that provides personal or nursing care to individuals who reside in the home on a temporary or permanent basis. The home may provide any of the following types of care: convalescent care; rehabilitation services; palliative care; respite care; and day programming. Special-care homes are operated by the Saskatchewan Health Authority or by a provider that has a contract with the Saskatchewan Health Authority.

PROCEDURES

The Pharmacist will:

- Adhere to the *Regulatory Bylaws of the Saskatchewan College of Pharmacy Professionals*.
- Adhere to the Guidelines to determine appropriate action in the assessment and treatment of AOM and/or AOE.
- Complete the appropriate medSask Pharmacist Assessment Record (PAR) with all relevant information to support clinical decision(s), including requirements listed in The Regulatory Bylaws of the Saskatchewan College of Pharmacy Professionals, patient consent, and factors that warrant referral if necessary.
- It is strongly recommended that the first page of the PAR, "Primary Care Provider Communication," include relevant medical documentation for the provider, such as but not limited to, relevant medical context of the patient or issue, the assessment rationale and outcome, and any relevant clinical decision(s).
- Send the PAR in its entirety to the patient's primary practitioner if a prescription is written.

The Pharmacy will:

- If treatment is required, submit the claim for the medication prescribed for adjudication or capture prior to submitting the EAR.
- Submit the EAR on a real-time basis once the assessment has been completed.
- Ensure the dispensed prescription and fees are captured on the Pharmaceutical Information Program (PIP).
- Obtain medSask approval, in writing, prior to the use of a document other than the PAR.
- Retain copies of the Pharmacist Assessment Record as per SCPP's Reference Manual - [Record Retention and Destruction guidelines](#).
- Provide copies of the relevant PAR upon DPEBB's request as part of its review of adherence to the Ear Infection Assessment and Treatment Program Policy and Procedure within 2 business days.

The Drug Plan and Extended Benefits Branch will:

- Provide pharmacies with the Ear Infection Assessment and Treatment Program Policy and Procedures.
- Pay pharmacies the EAR upon receipt of the electronic claim.
- Update the list of Drug Identification Numbers (DINs) for eligible products under the Program.
- Request and review the PAR to confirm adherence to the Ear Infection Assessment and Treatment Program Policy and Procedure.
- Recover fees if DPEBB determines, based on its review, that there was non-adherence to the Ear Infection Assessment and Treatment Program Policy and Procedure.

BILLING PROCEDURE

- Steps for pharmacists when prescribing under the Program and submitting the EAR:
- If treatment is indicated, dispense the eligible medication and submit the claim for adjudication or capture electronically via the DPEBB on-line claim system and PIP.
- Adjudicate the EAR, following the assessment, using the appropriate pseudoDIN to the DPEBB.
- Billing shall occur on a real-time basis and using the Billing Codes listed in Appendix I.
- Ensure the EAR is captured into PIP according to Appendix II.

Step 1: Dispensing the Medication:

- Use "SKCP" and your own pharmacist ID number in the Health Provider fields.
- Use "D" in front of your own pharmacist ID number.
- Ensure the following fields are:
 - **PATIENT IDENTIFIER** = client nine-digit Health Services Number (HSN)
 - **DISPENSING DATE** = date of the activity (e.g., June 1, 2026)
 - **RX NUMBER** = enter the sequential RX#
 - **HEALTH PROVIDER ORGANIZATION ID** = SKCP
 - **HEALTH PROVIDER ID** = Pharmacist ID number (e.g., D1234)
 - **PHARMACIST ORGANIZATION ID** = SK
 - **PHARMACIST ID** = Pharmacist ID number (e.g., D1234)
 - **DIN** = enter the DIN* of the product prescribed and dispensed
 - **COMPOUNDING FEE (CF)** = \$0.00
 - **COMPOUND NAME** = blank
 - **QUANTITY (QTY)** = enter quantity dispensed
 - **DAYS SUPPLY** = enter days supply dispensed
 - **ACQUISITION COST (AC)** = enter actual acquisition cost
 - **DISPENSING FEE (DF)** = enter usual and customary fee
 - **MARKUP** = tiered as per pharmacy agreement
 - **TOTAL RX COST** = enter total cost
 - **PATIENT PAID** = as appropriate
 - **ADJUDICATION FLAG** = Y/N

Step 2: Submitting an Ear Assessment Reimbursement (EAR) Claim:

- Submit the EAR electronically* via the DPEBB on-line claim system on the date the service was provided.
- DBEBB pays 100% of the EAR to the pharmacy.
- Ensure the following fields are:
 - **PATIENT IDENTIFIER** = client nine-digit Health Services Number (HSN)
 - **DISPENSING DATE** = date of the assessment (e.g., June 1, 2026)
***If treatment is indicated, must be submitted after and on the same day as the prescription claim in step 1**
 - **RX NUMBER** = enter the sequential RX#
 - **HEALTH PROVIDER ORGANIZATION ID** = SKCP
 - **HEALTH PROVIDER ID** = Pharmacist ID number (e.g., D1234)
***If treatment is indicated, must match the provider ID from the prescription claim in step 1**
 - **PHARMACIST ORGANIZATION ID** = SK
 - **PHARMACIST ID** = Pharmacist ID number (e.g., D1234)
 - **DIN** = enter appropriate billing code (pseudoDIN) for service provided (see Appendix I)
 - **COMPOUNDING FEE (CF)** = \$0.00
 - **COMPOUND NAME** = blank
 - **QUANTITY (QTY)** = 1 (limitations are as noted in Appendix 1)
 - **DAYS SUPPLY** = 1
 - **ACQUISITION COST (AC)** = \$25.00 or as per Schedule B of the Pharmacy Proprietor Agreement
 - **DISPENSING FEE (DF)** = \$0.00
 - **MARKUP** = 00 / 00 / 00
 - **TOTAL RX COST** = total fee
 - **PATIENT PAID** = \$0.00
 - **ADJUDICATION FLAG** = Y

- Please note: DPEBB will not accept paper claims.
- Use the **WEB page** <https://www.drugplan.health.gov.sk.ca> if unable to bill the fees electronically through the pharmacy's Practice Management System.
- Contact the pharmacy's software vendor if unsure how to install the WEB certificate.

APPENDIX I:
Ear Assessment Reimbursement (EAR) Codes and Threshold/Limitations

Billing Code (pseudoDIN)	Description	Cost	Billing Threshold/Limitations* *DPEBB Threshold/Limitations may not align with the prescribing limits within the medSask Guidelines
00951666*	The EAR is paid when a pharmacist completes an assessment (must include a physical assessment) and the patient is deemed NEGATIVE for an ear infection (AOM and/or AOE)	\$25.00	• Maximum of Four (4) claims in a 365-day period per patient • Must be submitted as a Quantity of ONE (1)
00951667*	The EAR is paid when a pharmacist completes an assessment (must include a physical assessment) and the patient is deemed POSITIVE for an AOM .	\$25.00	• Maximum of Four (4) claims in a 365-day period per patient • Must be submitted as a Quantity of ONE (1)
00951678*	The EAR is paid when a pharmacist completes an assessment (must include a physical assessment) and the patient is deemed POSITIVE for AOE .	\$25.00	• Maximum of Four (4) claims in a 365-day period per patient • Must be submitted as a Quantity of ONE (1)

*Refer to Appendix II for other scenarios

**Appendix II:
Alternative Billing Scenarios and Minimum PIP SIG Entry**

Clinical Outcome/Description	Record Name/PIP Pseudo DIN	Minimum PIP SIG Entry
Completed ear assessment, including physical assessment, and the patient is deemed negative for ear infection (AOM and/or AOE).	Ear Assessment pDIN: 00951666	Assessed. Ear infection negative.
Completed ear assessment, including physical assessment, however unable to confirm diagnosis (i.e. unable to visualize the tympanic membrane for AOM)	Ear Assessment pDIN: 00951666	Assessed. Referred as unable to confirm diagnosis.
Completed ear assessment, including physical assessment, and the patient requires referral to another provider	Ear Assessment pDIN: 00951666	Assessed. Referred to primary care provider
Completed ear assessment, including physical assessment, and the patient is deemed positive for AOM and provided with an antibiotic.	Acute Otitis Media Positive pDIN: 00951667 <i>Note: a corresponding entry for the prescribed antibiotic will be entered in the PIP</i>	Assessed. Prescription provided.
Completed ear assessment, including physical assessment, and the patient is deemed positive for both AOM and AOE and provided with prescription(s).	Acute Otitis Media Positive pDIN: 00951667 <i>Note: a corresponding entry for the prescription(s) will be entered in the PIP</i>	Assessed and positive for Acute Otitis Media AND Acute Otitis Externa. Prescription(s) provided.
Completed ear assessment, including physical assessment, and the patient is deemed positive for both AOM and AOE and provided with prescription for AOE and watchful waiting for AOM.	Acute Otitis Media Positive pDIN: 00951667 <i>Note: a corresponding entry for the prescription(s) will be entered in the PIP</i>	Assessed and positive for Acute Otitis Media AND Acute Otitis Externa. Prescription provided for Acute Otitis Externa provided. Watchful waiting for Acute Otitis Media.

Completed ear assessment, including physical assessment, and the patient is deemed positive for AOM infection and watchful waiting is recommended.	Acute Otitis Media Positive pDIN: 00951667	Assessed. Watchful waiting.
Completed ear assessment, including physical assessment, and the patient is deemed positive for AOE infection and provided with an antibiotic.	Acute Otitis Externa Positive pDIN: 00951678 <i>Note: a corresponding entry for the prescribed antibiotic will be entered in PIP</i>	Assessed. Prescription provided.