

Pathway	
	Removal of ear wax by micro-suction under direct vision.
Exclusions	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ∅ Aural toilet to treat an episode of otitis externa. ∅ Removal of wax in ENT outpatients to exclude pathology.
Commissioned	
	<p>Wax microsuction will only be funded for symptomatic patients with ANY of the following indications:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cleft palate, whether repaired or not. 2. Previous middle ear or mastoid surgery including tympanoplasty. 3. Persistent aural discharge, whatever the cause. 4. Suspected active middle ear disease, including infection within the past 6 weeks. 5. Grommets which are in situ or extruded within the last 18 months. 6. Tympanic perforation within the last 18 months. 7. Tympanic perforation which has recurred in an adult even if currently healed. 8. History of persistent pain, deafness, infection or vertigo following irrigation. 9. Permanent profound deafness in one ear and the good ear has impacted wax. 10. Unable to tolerate irrigation e.g. young children or adults with impaired cognition.
Not Funded	
	Removal of ear wax using micro-suction will not be funded unless the patient is suffering from significant symptoms, such as hearing loss or pain, due to the build-up of ear wax, and has had a proper trial of wax softening ear drops in combination with at least 1 attempt at irrigation of each affected ear, in the absence of any contraindications to this procedure.
Rationale	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ear wax is a common cause of concern to patients and self-management is often undertaken incorrectly, hence the importance of providing written information from a reliable source such as patient.co.uk. ▪ Appropriate self-care reduces the need for irrigation and associated risks. ▪ This policy is based on NICE guidance 98 June 2018
Cohort	
	Children and Adults.
Equality	
	Compliant with the Equality Act 2010.
Status	
	RED as defined by the Prior Approval Scheme Policy.

OPCS codes			
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Removal of wax from external auditory canal NEC</td> <td>D07.2</td> </tr> </table>	Removal of wax from external auditory canal NEC	D07.2
Removal of wax from external auditory canal NEC	D07.2		
Version History			
	New policy.		
Authorised			
	April 2019		
Review			
	<p>April 2024 Earlier if new evidence published by NICE or other authoritative body.</p>		