

Policy statement:	Ear Microsuction/Wax Removal
Status:	Group Prior Approval

M&SECCGs commission ear micro suction on a restricted basis for patients who meet one of the following criteria:

- a. Patients with contraindications to syringing (tympanic perforation, previous ear surgery, history of otitis externa following syringing, young children uncooperative to ear irrigation)
- b. Acute or chronic otitis externa with excessive debris or swollen external meatus not settling after initial topical treatment or who require regular microsuction to prevent recurrent episodes
- c. The patient has a cleft palate (repaired or not).
- d. Wax unresponsive to ear irrigation. Ear irrigation must have been attempted and documented as failed on at least two occasions before referral for ear micro-suction on each occasion.
- e. Ear foreign body extraction
- f. Regular mastoid cavity de-waxing

Routine repeated ear micro-suctioning to prevent ear wax build up will not be funded.

Patients not meeting the above criteria will only be funded on exceptional clinical circumstances.

For more information <http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/earwax/pages/introduction.aspx>

Applications for funding in such circumstances should be made to the Exceptional Case Team but should only be made where the patient demonstrates clinical exceptionality.

Individual funding requests should only be made where the patient demonstrates clinical exceptionality.

Further information on applying for funding in exceptional clinical circumstances can be found on the CCGs' website.

