

Kathy Kivale

STANDING ORDER

EAR PROBLEMS

I. ASSESSMENT

- A. Obtain subjective complaints of pain and history of ear problems.
- B. Examine ear with otoscope, assess cerumen (color, consistency, is the canal impacted?), drainage, redness, swelling.
- C. Take vital signs, including temperature.

II. MANAGEMENT

- A. If earwax present, use Debrox drops or equivalent, following instructions on package. Instruct inmate to notify Facility Nurse if symptoms persist.
- B. If external otitis present (lesions, exudate) refer to Facility Provider.
- C. If otitis media is suspected, contact Facility Provider for medication orders.
- D. If earwax plug is visible and there is no pain or fever, insert Debrox eardrops for four (4) days following instructions on package, then irrigate ear with warm water on day five (5).
- E. If concern for perforated tympanic membrane, do not irrigate and schedule inmate to see Facility Provider at earliest availability.

III. EVALUATION

- A. If symptoms persist, contact Facility Provider for instructions.