**POLICY:** It is the goal of the Emergency Department to provide rapid assessment, treatment and stabilization of patients presenting for care in the Emergency Department.

**PROCEDURE:** Upon completion of triage by a Registered Nurse (RN), the Attending RN or Triage RN may initiate patient complaint-specific nursing practice guidelines that have been approved by the medical staff of the Department of Emergency Medicine.

**PRACTICE GUIDELINES:** The following nursing practice guidelines have been approved for initiation prior to medical screening examination by the Emergency Physician.

### Signs and Symptoms (Chief Complaint)

- ear pain
- ear swelling
- ear redness
- ear drainage
- foreign body to ear
- insects in the ear
- ear itching
- decreased hearing

### Laboratory Studies

**Diagnostic Imaging**

**Medications**

**Pediatric (<2 years):**
- Acetaminophen 15mg/kg po

**Pediatric (> 2 years):**
- Acetaminophen 15mg/kg po OR
- Ibuprofen 10mg/kg po

**Adult:**
- Acetaminophen 975 mg po OR
- Ibuprofen 600 mg po

### Nursing Interventions

### Potential Physician Orders

- mineral oil
- ceruminex
- viscous lidocaine
- anesthetic ear drops (ex: Auralgan, Benzocaine)

### Physician Notification Criteria/Clinical Warnings

*The ED Physician should be notified immediately if any of the following conditions are present*

**DANGER ZONE VITALS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>HR</th>
<th>RR</th>
<th>SaO2&lt;92%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt;3m</td>
<td>&gt;180</td>
<td>&gt;50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3m-3y</td>
<td>&gt;160</td>
<td>&gt;40</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-8y</td>
<td>&gt;140</td>
<td>&gt;30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;8y</td>
<td>&gt;100</td>
<td>&gt;20</td>
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7/1/2012