Purpose: Provide guidelines for CIP paramedics to utilize an otoscope or disposable speculum for patient evaluation.

Aliases: speculum

1. Indications
   1. Need for visualization of the eardrum
2. Contraindications
   1. None
3. Equipment
   1. Otoscope
   2. Otoscope with disposable specula (eartip)
4. Procedure
   1. Adult positioning
      1. Use otoscope with largest ear speculum that the ear canal will accommodate
      2. Position patient’s head and neck upright
      3. Grasp auricle firmly and gently, pull upwards, backward and slightly away from the head
      4. Hold otoscope handle between thumb and fingers and brace hand against patient’s face
      5. Insert speculum into ear canal, directing it somewhat down and forward and through hairs
   2. Child positioning
      1. Child may sit up or lie down
      2. Hold otoscope with handle pointing down toward child’s feet while pulling up on auricle
      3. Hold the head and up on auricle with one hand while holding otoscope with the other hand
      4. Insert speculum into ear canal, directing it somewhat down and forward and through hairs
   3. Inspection for both adult and child
      1. Inspect ear canal noting discharge, foreign bodies, redness and/or swelling
      2. Inspect eardrum noting color and contour and perforations
5. Documentation see CIP Documentation protocol
   1. Additionally:
      1. Eardrum color, translucency, and presence or absence of swelling or perforation.
      2. Ear canal discharge, foreign bodies, redness and/or swelling