

**Michigan**  
**COMMUNITY INTEGRATED PARAMEDICINE**  
**Procedure Protocol**  
**OTOSCOPE**

Initial Date: November 13, 2020

Revised Date:

Section 11-36

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

**Aliases:** speculum

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