

L.No. – NHSRC/12-13/QI/01/LS

Date: April 11, 2025

**Subject: Online Lecture Series on Standard Treatment Guidelines**

Dear Sir / Madam

Otitis media is the medical term used for the infection or inflammation of the middle ear, that results temporary or permanent hearing impairment due to fluid effusion or pathological alterations in the tympanic membrane of the middle ear. Middle ear infections are usually a result of a malfunction of the eustachian tube, a canal that links the middle ear with the throat area. Otitis Media can affect people of all ages, but young children are at higher risk of getting affected.

Usually caused by bacterial or viral infection, Otitis Media can be Acute or Chronic, with or without effusion. Symptoms of ear infection may include earache and fever commonly but less commonly, there may drainage of fluid, and pus from the ear or even hearing loss. Most of the infections go away on their own but some require aggressive antibiotic treatment.

According to a Lancet report, an estimated 1.23 billion individuals are affected with bacterial ear infections worldwide annually. About 50% of the people having middle ear infections were under-five children. About 60% of the children have at least one episode of ear infection by the time they are 3 years of age.

In 2021, there were approximately 391 million new cases of otitis media globally, an increase from 316 million cases in 1990. In 2021, otitis media accounted for 2.45 million years lived with disability (YLDs) globally, a 20.7% increase since 1990. According to a meta-analysis done for the prevalence of Otitis Media in children below 18 years of age in India, 0.55% children had Acute Otitis Media; 2.68% had Otitis Media with effusion and 3.78% had Chronic Suppurative Otitis Media.

Therefore, to focus on this common but crucial healthcare problem, the next sessions on **“Management of Acute & Chronic Otitis Media and Ear Discharge”**, and **“Antibiotic Overuse in Acute Ear Infections: Are We Fuelling Resistance?”** have been scheduled on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2025 and the speakers are **Dr Ravi Meher**, Director Professor and Head, Department of ENT Medicine, Maulana Azad Medical College, New Delhi and **Dr Sangeeta Sharma**, Professor,

Neuropsychopharmacology, IHBAS and President – DSPRUD respectively. The registration for the webinar would commence at 15:00 hours on the same day.

You are requested to disseminate the information to all public healthcare facilities and available clinicians and nursing professionals may be encouraged to join the webinar. Agenda of the session is placed at **Annexure ‘A’**.

Webex link and QR code to register for the next online lecture is given below –

<https://nhsrc-india.webex.com/weblink/register/rdceb87f6474fb9e03000b05650c9fa81>

Date: 19.04.2025

Time: 3:00 PM to 5:30 PM



Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'J' followed by a horizontal line and a small flourish.

(Dr J N Srivastava)

Officiating Executive Director

To,

ACS | PS | Secretary Health – All States & UTs

Copy:

- Mission Director NHM - All States & UTs