

2026 NHSN Eye, Ear, Nose, Throat, or Mouth (EENT) Infection Checklist

Documentation Review Checklist		
EENT - EYE, EAR, NOSE, THROAT, OR MOUTH INFECTION		
CONJ-Conjunctivitis		
Criterion met: <input type="checkbox"/> 1a <input type="checkbox"/> 1b <input type="checkbox"/> 1c <input type="checkbox"/> 1d <input type="checkbox"/> 1e		
Element	Element Met	Date
Conjunctivitis must meet at least <u>one</u> of the following criteria:		
1. Patient has at least <u>one</u> of the following signs or symptoms:		
• Pain	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Erythema	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Swelling of conjunctiva or around eye	<input type="checkbox"/>	
AND at least <u>one</u> of the following:		
a. Patient has organism(s) identified from conjunctival scraping or purulent exudate obtained from the conjunctiva or contiguous tissues (for example, eyelid, cornea, meibomian glands, or lacrimal glands) by a culture or non-culture based microbiologic testing method, which is performed for purposes of clinical diagnosis or treatment, for example, not Active Surveillance Culture/Testing (ASC/AST).	<input type="checkbox"/>	
b. WBCs and organism(s) seen on Gram stain of exudate.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
c. Purulent exudate.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
d. Multinucleated giant cells seen on microscopic examination of conjunctival exudate or scrapings.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
e. Diagnostic single antibody titer (IgM) or ≥4-fold increase in paired sera (IgG) for organism.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Reporting Instructions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report other infections of the eye as EYE. Do not report chemical conjunctivitis, caused by silver nitrate (AgNO₃), as a healthcare-associated infection. Do not report a separate case of conjunctivitis (CONJ) that occurs as a part of another viral illness (for example, UR). 		

EENT - EYE, EAR, NOSE, THROAT, OR MOUTH INFECTION		
EAR-Ear, mastoid infection		
Criterion met: <input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 <input type="checkbox"/> 6 <input type="checkbox"/> 7 <input type="checkbox"/> 8a <input type="checkbox"/> 8b		
Element	Element Met	Date
Ear and mastoid infections must meet at least <u>one</u> of the following criteria:		
<u>Otitis externa</u> must meet at least <u>one</u> of the following criteria:		
1. Patient has organism(s) identified from purulent drainage from ear canal by a culture or non-culture based microbiologic testing method, which is performed for purposes of clinical diagnosis or treatment, for example, not Active Surveillance Culture/Testing (ASC/AST).	<input type="checkbox"/>	



2. Patient has at least <u>one</u> of the following:		
• Fever (>38.0°C)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Pain*	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Erythema*	<input type="checkbox"/>	
AND		
• Organism(s) seen on Gram stain of purulent drainage from ear canal.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Otitis media must meet at least <u>one</u> of the following criteria:		
3. Patient has organism(s) identified from fluid from middle ear obtained during an invasive procedure (for example, tympanocentesis) by a culture or non-culture based microbiologic testing method, which is performed for purposes of clinical diagnosis or treatment, for example, not Active Surveillance Culture/Testing (ASC/AST).	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4. Patient has at least <u>two</u> of the following:		
• Fever (>38.0°C)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Pain *	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Inflammation*	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Retraction* or decreased mobility of eardrum*	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Fluid behind eardrum*	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Otitis interna (labyrinthitis) must meet at least <u>one</u> of the following criteria:		
5. Patient has organism(s) identified from fluid from inner ear obtained during an invasive procedure by a culture or non-culture based microbiologic testing method, which is performed for purposes of clinical diagnosis or treatment, for example, not Active Surveillance Culture/Testing (ASC/AST).	<input type="checkbox"/>	
6. Patient has a physician or physician designee diagnosis of inner ear infection.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Mastoiditis must meet at least <u>one</u> of the following criteria:		
7. Patient has organism(s) identified from fluid or tissue from mastoid by a culture or non-culture based microbiologic testing method, which is performed for purposes of clinical diagnosis or treatment, for example, not Active Surveillance Culture/Testing (ASC/AST).	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8. Patient has at least <u>two</u> of the following:		
• Fever (>38.0°C)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Pain or tenderness*	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Post auricular swelling*	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Erythema*	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Headache*	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Facial paralysis*	<input type="checkbox"/>	
AND at least <u>one</u> of the following:		
a. Organism(s) seen on Gram stain of fluid or tissue from mastoid	<input type="checkbox"/>	
b. Imaging test evidence definitive for infection (for example, CT scan), which if equivocal is supported by clinical correlation, specifically, physician or physician designee documentation of antimicrobial treatment for mastoid infection.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<i>*With no other recognized cause</i>		

EENT - EYE, EAR, NOSE, THROAT, OR MOUTH INFECTION		
EYE-Eye infection, other than conjunctivitis		
Criterion met: <input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2		
Element	Element Met	Date
An infection of the eye, other than conjunctivitis, must meet at least one of the following criteria:		
1. Patient has organism(s) identified from anterior or posterior chamber or vitreous fluid by a culture or non-culture based microbiologic testing method, which is performed for purposes of clinical diagnosis or treatment, for example, not Active Surveillance Culture/Testing (ASC/AST).	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2. Patient has at least two of the following signs or symptoms with no other recognized cause:		
• Eye pain	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Visual disturbance	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Hypopyon	<input type="checkbox"/>	
AND		
• Physician or physician designee initiates antimicrobial therapy within two days of onset or worsening of symptoms.	<input type="checkbox"/>	

EENT-EYE, EAR, NOSE, THROAT, OR MOUTH INFECTION		
SINU-Sinusitis		
Criterion met: <input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2		
Element	Element Met	Date
Sinusitis must meet at least one of the following criteria:		
1. Patient has organism(s) identified from fluid or tissue from the sinus cavity obtained during an invasive procedure by a culture or non-culture based microbiologic testing method, which is performed for purposes of clinical diagnosis or treatment, for example, not Active Surveillance Culture/Testing (ASC/AST).	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2. Patient has at least one of the following signs or symptoms:		
• Fever (>38.0°C)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Pain or tenderness over the involved sinus*	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Headache*	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Purulent exudate*	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Nasal obstruction*	<input type="checkbox"/>	
AND		
• Imaging test evidence of sinusitis (for example, x-ray, CT scan).	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<i>*With no other recognized cause</i>		



EENT - EYE, EAR, NOSE, THROAT, OR MOUTH INFECTION

ORAL-Oral cavity infection (mouth, tongue, or gums)

Criterion met: 1 2 3a 3b 3c 3d 3e

Element	Element Met	Date
Oral cavity infections must meet at least one of the following criteria:		
1. Patient has organism(s) identified from abscess or purulent material from tissues of oral cavity by a culture or non-culture based microbiologic testing method, which is performed for purposes of clinical diagnosis or treatment, for example, not Active Surveillance Culture/Testing (ASC/AST).	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2. Patient has an abscess or other evidence of oral cavity infection found on invasive procedure, gross anatomic exam, or histopathologic exam.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3. Patient has at least one of the following signs or symptoms with no other recognized cause:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ulceration 	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raised white patches on inflamed mucosa 	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plaques on oral mucosa 	<input type="checkbox"/>	
AND at least one of the following:		
a. Virus identified from mucosal scrapings or exudate by a culture or non-culture based microbiologic testing method, which is performed for purposes of clinical diagnosis or treatment, for example, not Active Surveillance Culture/Testing (ASC/AST).	<input type="checkbox"/>	
b. Multinucleated giant cells seen on microscopic examination of mucosal scrapings or exudate.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
c. Diagnostic single antibody titer (IgM) or ≥ 4 -fold increase in paired sera (IgG) for organism.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
d. Fungal elements seen on microscopic exam of mucosal scrapings or exudate (for example, Gram stain, KOH).	<input type="checkbox"/>	
e. Physician or physician designee initiates antimicrobial therapy within 2 days of onset or worsening of symptoms.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Reporting Instruction:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report healthcare-associated primary herpes simplex infections of the oral cavity as ORAL; recurrent herpes infections are not healthcare associated. 		



EENT - EYE, EAR, NOSE, THROAT, OR MOUTH INFECTION

UR-Upper respiratory tract infection, pharyngitis, laryngitis, epiglottitis

Criterion met: 1a 1b 1c 2 3a 3b 3c

Element	Element Met	Date
Upper respiratory tract infections must meet at least <u>one</u> of the following criteria:		
1. Patient has at least <u>two</u> of the following signs or symptoms:		
• Fever (>38.0°C)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Erythema of pharynx*	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Sore throat*	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Cough*	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Hoarseness*	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Tachypnea*	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Nasal discharge*	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Purulent exudate in throat*	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<u>AND</u> at least <u>one</u> of the following:		
a. Organism(s) identified from upper respiratory site (specifically: nasal cavity, larynx, nasopharynx, pharynx, and epiglottis) by a culture or non-culture based microbiologic testing method, which is performed for purposes of clinical diagnosis or treatment, for example, not Active Surveillance Culture/Testing (ASC/AST). Note: excludes sputum and tracheal aspirate because these are not upper respiratory specimens.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
b. Diagnostic single antibody titer (IgM) or ≥4-fold increase in paired sera (IgG) for organism.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
c. Physician or physician designee diagnosis of an upper respiratory infection.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2. Patient has an abscess on gross anatomical or histopathologic exam or imaging test.		
3. Patient ≤1 year of age has at least <u>two</u> of the following signs or symptoms:		
• Fever (>38.0°C)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Hypothermia (<36.0°C)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Apnea*	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Bradycardia*	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Nasal discharge*	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Purulent exudate in throat*	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<u>AND</u> at least <u>one</u> of the following:		
a. Organism(s) identified from upper respiratory site (specifically: nasal cavity, larynx, nasopharynx, pharynx, and epiglottis) by a culture or non-culture based microbiologic testing method, which is performed for purposes of clinical diagnosis or treatment, for example, not Active Surveillance Culture/Testing (ASC/AST). Note: excludes sputum and tracheal aspirate because they are not upper respiratory specimens.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
b. Diagnostic single antibody titer (IgM) or ≥4-fold increase in paired sera (IgG) for organism.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
c. Physician or physician designee diagnosis of an upper respiratory infection.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<i>*With no other recognized cause</i>		

