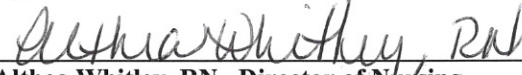
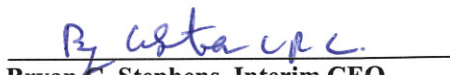




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<b>Policy # 9004</b>	<b>Ear Medication Instillation</b>
<b>Origination Date: March 1998</b>	
<b>Revision Date: June 2004; March 27, 2006; November 11, 2008</b>	
<b>Reviewed Date: February 2005; July 20, 2007; April 9, 2009, April 5, 2010, June 2011, October 2, 2012, May 8, 2013, July 26, 2016</b>	
<b>Approved:</b>	
 Althea Whitley, RN, Director of Nursing	 Bryan G. Stephens, Interim CEO

**PURPOSE:**

To ensure that when ear medications are ordered by a MD, the instillation is completed by licensed nursing staff or staff assisting a client with self administration using the following procedure in order to provide the most effective and safe administration.

**PROCEDURE:**

1. Gather supplies of dropper (usually comes with medication), tissues/cotton balls and gloves.
2. Wash hands prior to procedure; apply gloves.
3. Explain procedure to client.
4. Warm medication under lukewarm tap water for 30 seconds.
5. Position client on his/her side opposite affected ear.
6. Check for and remove, if found, cotton plug or packing from ear(s) wearing gloves.
7. Instill solution as follows:
  - a. Draw prescribed medication in correct amount into dropper.
  - b. Straighten auditory canal by pulling ear lobe gently downward and toward back of head. For child under age 8 and adults with Down Syndrome, gently pull ear up and toward back of head to straighten auditory canal. Check for drainage, and if present, remove first with tissue or cotton ball.
  - c. Point the tip of dropper into auditory canal and instill drops to fall against side of ear canal.
  - d. If directed, gently place clean cotton plug in ear to secure medication.
  - e. Remove gloves and wash hands after procedure completed.
8. Instruct client to continue to lie on side for 2-3 minutes.
9. If both ears affected, treat each ear as a separate procedure.
10. Document date, time of treatment, ear treated and name and amount of medication given on medication record. If any adverse reaction noted, such as vertigo, record in Progress Notes and notify nurse.