ALGORITHM 1: DIAGNOSIS Could this child have a middle ear infection (otitis media)?
(Use this Algorithm during examination and management of both ears accordingly)

Using otoscopy, can you see discharge in the ear canal or next to the eardrum?
- **YES**
- **NO**

Is there a perforation (hole in eardrum)?
- **YES**
- **NO**

Is there a bulging eardrum or ear pain?
- **YES**
- **NO**

Have there been ≥ 3 episodes of Acute Otitis Media in the last 6 months or ≥ 4 episodes in the last year?
- **YES**
- **NO**

Is there a Tympanostomy Tube (Tympanostomy Tube Otorrhea [TTO])?
- **YES**
- **NO**

Is the ear canal swollen and sore?
- **YES**
- **NO**

Has there been discharge through a perforation (hole in eardrum) present for at least 2 weeks?
- **YES**
- **NO**

Is perforation size easily visible and large enough for topical antibiotic drops (>2% of eardrum)?
- **YES**
- **NO**

Has the effusion been present for > 3 months?
- **YES**
- **NO**

*Is pneumatic otoscopy or tympanometry possible?*
- **YES**
- **NO**

Is either eardrum mobile? (confirm pneumatic otoscopy or tympanometry)
- **YES**
- **NO**

Normal eardrum(s) or unilateral OME
- **NO**

Episodic bilateral OME (see algorithm 2)
- **YES**

Persistent bilateral OME (see algorithm 3)
- **NO**

CSOM (see algorithm 7)
- **NO**

AOM with Perforation (see algorithm 6)
- **NO**

Otitis Externa (see alternate guidelines)
- **NO**

Recurrent AOM (see algorithm 5)
- **NO**

AOM without Perforation (see algorithm 4)
- **NO**

Dry Perforation (see algorithm 8)
- **NO**

*Pneumatic otoscopy or tympanometry is required to accurately diagnose OME*