ALGORITHM 3: MANAGEMENT Persistent Bilateral Otitis Media with Effusion (OME)

Has OME persisted longer than 3 months?

- Amoxycillin 50 mg / kg / day, 2-3 times a day for 2-4 weeks
- Autoinflation may benefit some children

NO

- Refer for hearing assessment
- Refer for ENT assessment only if severe retraction present (i.e. retraction pocket atelectasis)
- Monitor listening behaviour for sings of hearing loss

Episodic bilateral OME (see algorithm 2)

OME RESOLVED

- Continue to review regularly (see algorithm 1)

OME PERSISTS AND HEARING STATUS UNKNOWN

- Refer for hearing assessment
- Refer for ENT assessment only if severe retraction present (i.e. retraction pocket atelectasis)
- Monitor listening behaviour for sings of hearing loss

Hearing Loss <20 dB in the better ear

- With normal hearing or slight hearing loss
- Continue to review monthly (see algorithm 1)

Hearing Loss 21 - 30 dB in the better ear

- With mild hearing loss
- Continue to review regularly (see algorithm 1)
- Use and recommend strategies to improve quality of communication
- Ensure ongoing audiological, language and educational support
- Refer for ENT assessment
- If school age, recommend classroom amplification
- Refer for speech therapy if concerned about language development

Hearing Loss >30 dB in the better ear

- With moderate hearing loss
- Continue to review regularly (see algorithm 1)
- Use and recommend strategies to improve quality of communication
- Ensure ongoing audiological, language and educational support
- ENT referral for grommet surgery
- Refer for hearing aid consult if surgery delayed >6 months, unavailable or unsuccessful, and hearing loss >30 dB in the better ear
- If school age, recommend classroom amplification
- Refer for speech therapy if concerned about language development