

### **OTOLOGY CLINIC INFORMATION**

Your Local Health Department, in conjunction with the Michigan Department Health and Human Services, has arranged for an otologist (ear specialist) and audiologist to examine all children who attend the clinic. The medical and audiological exams will help identify if your child has a hearing problem and the possible cause. A diagnosis and recommendation will be given, while treatment may or may not be provided. There is ***no charge*** for this clinic visit, but if further treatment is necessary it is the financial responsibility of the parent.

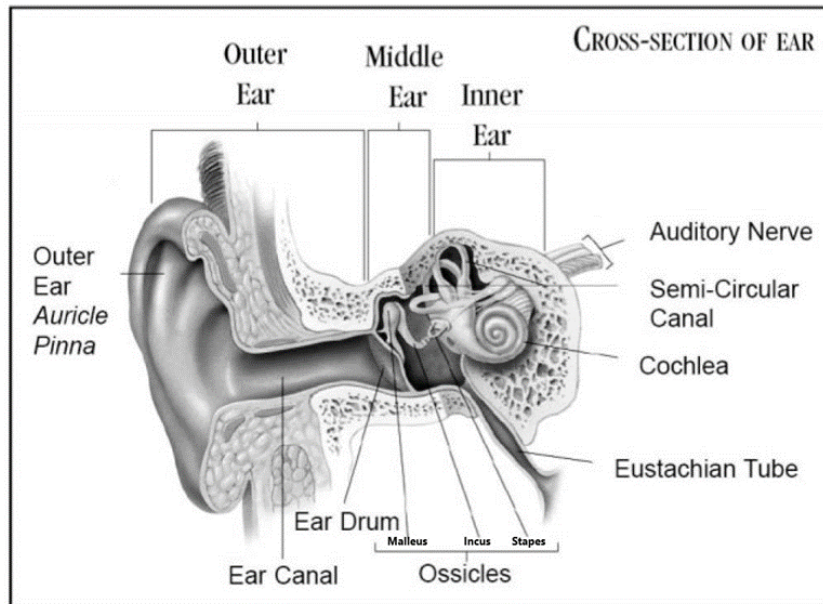
### **POSSIBLE OUTCOMES OF THE VISIT**

**NORMAL EXAM:** One out of five children who attend an otology clinic will have normal hearing. This is not unusual. The child may have recovered from a cold or congestion since the hearing test was performed.

**WAX:** It is normal to have some wax in the ear but if it completely blocks the ear canal, it may cause a decrease in hearing. You should **not** try to remove the wax with cotton swabs, hair pins, etc. Let the doctor advise you on keeping the ear canal clear.

**FLUID/EAR INFECTION:** Middle ear infections (otitis media) are not uncommon during childhood. It is usually the result of the Eustachian tube in the middle ear becoming blocked. Fluid cannot drain normally which causes the 'air-filled' middle ear cavity to become 'fluid-filled'. Treatment may involve antibiotics, observation, or pressure equalization tubes. Common symptoms include ear pain, hearing loss, and fever.

**SENSORINEURAL HEARING LOSS:** Permanent hearing loss that occurs in the inner ear. There are many possible causes, and the degree of loss can vary from slight to profound. It is not the most common cause of hearing impairment identified by the MDHHS Hearing Screening Program but is still considered to be the most common birth defect in the United States.



### COMMON THE TERMS USED AT OTOLGY CLINICS

**Audiogram** - A chart that shows the results of a hearing test.

**Audiologist** - A professional trained in the identification, measurement, and treatment of hearing loss.

**Cerumen** - Ear wax; normally present in the ear canal to protect the ear.

**Cholesteatoma** - A tumor-like growth in the middle ear space which must be removed surgically.

**Cochlea** - Sensory organ of hearing in the inner ear. Damage to the receptor cells causes a permanent hearing loss.

**Conductive hearing loss** - A loss caused by an abnormal transmission of sound in the outer or middle ears.

**Congenital hearing loss** – The presence of hearing loss at or before birth.

**Decibel (dB)** – A numeric measurement of the intensity of sound.

**Eustachian Tube** - A passage that extends from the middle ear cavity to the back of the throat.

**Ossicles** - Three tiny bones in the middle ear which aid the conduction of sound vibrations from the ear drum to the inner ear.

**Otitis Media** - An infection of the middle ear.

**Otologist** - A physician and surgeon who specializes in disorders of the ear.

**P.E. Tubes** – Surgically placed tubes to allow ventilation of the middle ear space.

**Sensorineural Hearing Loss** – A loss caused by damage to the inner ear and/or auditory nerve.

**Tympanic Membrane** – The eardrum, a thin layer of tissue that separates the outer and middle ears.