When is a child a candidate for tubes?

**Ear tube guideline**

This triage guideline is designed to help direct decision making and treatment options for children with OME and COME.

1. **Child age 6 months to 12 years with OME**
   - **Has the child had persistent OME for 3 months or longer?**
     - **No**
       - **Is the child considered 'at risk'?**
         - **No**
           - **Reevaluate child until OME resolves, persist 3 months or longer, or is associated with a type B (flat) tympanogram**
         - **Yes**
           - **Clinician may perform tympanostomy tube insertion**
   - **Yes**
     - **Obtain hearing test**
     - **Has the child had unilateral or bilateral chronic OME and documented hearing difficulty?**
       - **No**
         - **Offer tympanostomy tube insertion**
       - **Yes**
         - **Does the child have unilateral or bilateral chronic OME or a type B (flat) tympanogram?**
           - **No**
             - **Reevaluate child every 3 to 6 months until effusion no longer present, significant hearing loss detected or structural abnormalities suspected.**
           - **Yes**
             - **Clinician may perform tympanostomy tube insertion**
       - **Educate caregivers and proceed with tympanostomy tube placement**

* OME: Otitis media with effusion
* COME: Chronic OME