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For Immediate Release

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AAO-HNSF Clinical Practice Guideline Public Comment Period is Now Open

Alexandria, VA — On August 8 – 22, 2011, the American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery Foundation (AAO-HNSF) will hold an open public comment period for their Clinical Practice Guideline: Sudden Hearing Loss.

As part of the AAO-HNSF's clinical practice guideline (CPG) development work, CPGs will now be made available for public comment prior to their publication. The AAO-HNSF has determined that a public comment period will help align the AAO-HNSF's guideline development methodology to the eight standards proposed by the Institute of Medicine (IOM) in their consensus report 'Clinical Practice Guidelines We Can Trust.'

“As part of the guideline development process, we are eager to make this CPG available for public comment. The guideline panel greatly values the input of colleagues, the wider medical community, and the general public,” said Robert J. Stachler, MD, Guideline Chair. “This guideline provides evidence-based statements for the diagnosis, management and follow-up of patients who present with this sudden hearing loss.”

The CPG being made available for public comment has gone through an extensive external peer review as described in the AAO-HNSF's guideline development manual. External reviewers were given four weeks to review and provide comments on the CPG. The CPG's chair and assistant chairs reviewed and responded to all reviewer comments and updated the document where appropriate.

As of August 8, 2011 midnight EST, the CPG will be available for public comment for a two week period. All comments received will be reviewed by the guideline development group, who will determine if any further modifications are required before the CPG is submitted to the Academy's Board of Directors for approval and to *Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery*. Individuals wishing to review the document will be required to complete a conflict of interest disclosure.

For more information, please visit <http://www.entnet.org/Practice/Sudden-Hearing-Loss.cfm>

The public comment period will close on August 22, 2011. For more information, please contact Mary Stewart at 1-703-535-3762, or newsroom@entnet.org.

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About the AAO-HNS

The American Academy of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery (www.entnet.org), one of the oldest medical associations in the nation, represents nearly 12,000 physicians and allied health professionals who specialize in the diagnosis and treatment of disorders of the ears, nose, throat, and related structures of the head and neck. The Academy serves its members by facilitating the advancement of the science and art of medicine related to otolaryngology and by representing the specialty in governmental and socioeconomic issues. The organization's vision: "Empowering otolaryngologist-head and neck surgeons to deliver the best patient care."