

September 12, 2006

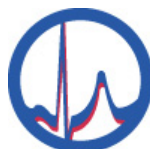
Dear Hearing Services Provider:

The 2006 Florida Legislature has reinstated Medicaid coverage of hearing services for adult beneficiaries, ages 21 and over. Effective for dates of service on or after July 1, 2006, Medicaid covers hearing services for all eligible Medicaid beneficiaries, regardless of age. The services are:

- Hearing aid evaluations: One every three years; if more than one evaluation is needed within a 3-year period, it must be prior authorized. Prior authorization must be requested from Medicaid headquarters and not the area Medicaid office.
- Diagnostic testing: Covered for purposes of hearing aid candidacy in addition to the hearing evaluation. Diagnostic services for medically necessary reasons are covered.
- Hearing aids: Limited to one per ear every three years; if another is needed on the same ear within three years, it must be prior authorized.
- Hearing aid fitting and dispensing: One per ear every three years; if another is needed for the same ear within three years, it must be prior authorized.
- Binaural hearing aids and fitting and dispensing do not require prior authorization.
- Hearing aid repairs: Three repairs per year outside the warranty period, starting after one full year from the date the aid was dispensed.
- Cochlear implant: Limit of one, by prior authorization only.
- Cochlear implant repairs outside the warranty period: May be post authorized.
- Cochlear implant accessories: Must be prior authorized.

Please note that prior authorization must be requested from Medicaid headquarters and not the area Medicaid office. There is no co-payment nor coinsurance requirement for hearing aids.

The updated hearing services fee schedule is available for providers on the ACS website at <http://floridamedicaid.acs-inc.com>. Click on "Provider Support," then click on "Fees," and select the Hearing Services schedule. Please note that fees have not changed, but the age restriction on the services noted above has been removed to allow coverage for adults.



Hearing Services Provider  
Page Two

If you have further inquiries, please call your local area Medicaid office. A listing of the area office telephone numbers and addresses can be found in the Florida Medicaid Provider General Handbook, Appendix C. This handbook is available at the website noted above. Click on "Provider Support," then "Handbooks."

We appreciate the services you provide to Florida's Medicaid beneficiaries.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "TWA", is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

Thomas W. Arnold  
Deputy Secretary for Medicaid

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