



California
Department of
Health Services

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Index: Benefits

TO: ALL COUNTY CALIFORNIA CHILDREN SERVICES (CCS)
ADMINISTRATORS, MEDICAL CONSULTANTS AND STATE
CHILDREN'S MEDICAL SERVICES (CMS) BRANCH AND
REGIONAL OFFICE STAFF

SUBJECT: BENEFITS FOR HEARING AID MAINTENANCE: BATTERIES,
ACCESSORIES, EARMOLDS, AND REPAIR/MODIFICATIONS
FOR CCS CLIENTS

PURPOSE

The purpose of this numbered letter is to provide guidelines for the authorization of batteries, accessories, earmolds, and repair/modifications for hearing aids and Frequency Modulated (FM) systems. Revisions are necessary to assure compliance with the Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS), and to provide CCS case management staff information regarding the appropriate method and quantities for authorization.

BACKGROUND

The maintenance of hearing aids and FM systems includes the provision of batteries and minor repairs or modifications to assure proper function of the device and the provision of ear molds and accessories that help meet the specific needs of the child and family. A CCS eligible child with a hearing loss will receive treatment services from an age-appropriate CCS-approved Special Care Center (SCC) for hearing services known as a Communication Disorder Center (CDC). Authorizations to CDCs for diagnosis and treatment services are issued for Service Code Group (SCG) 04. This SCG does not include procedure codes for hearing aid batteries, accessories, or maintenance of hearing aids which must be separately authorized. However, the HCPCS code for ear molds has been added to SCG 04 and therefore separate authorization is no longer necessary when the hearing aid maintenance is to be performed at the CDC.

POLICY

The maintenance of hearing aids and FM systems, including provision of replacement batteries, accessories, ear molds and repairs or modifications is a benefit for all CCS clients with hearing loss and should be authorized to coincide with the child's eligibility period. While hearing aid batteries continue to be Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment Supplemental Service (EPSDT SS) benefits for CCS eligible Medi-Cal clients with full-scope, no share of cost coverage, it is no longer necessary to separately authorize them as EPSDT SS benefits. All products and services, covered in this N.L. may be listed on the same authorization.

IMPLEMENTATION

- A. Authorizations for hearing aid batteries and maintenance for CCS eligible clients shall be issued to any one of the following hearing aid dispenser types as appropriate:
 - 1. A Communication Disorder Center (CDC) based in a hospital outpatient facility: use the hospital non-contract outpatient provider number for the authorization.
 - 2. A stand-alone private practice CDC: use the audiologist's individual Medi-Cal provider number for the authorization.
 - 3. Services provided by a hearing aid dispenser in conjunction with a CDC: use the hearing aid dispenser's Medi-Cal provider number for the authorization.
- B. Batteries
 - 1. Authorization shall be issued for 18 units replacement batteries per quarter per hearing aid or FM system to a maximum of 72 replacement batteries per hearing aid per year.
 - 2. All hearing aid batteries are authorized using HCPCS code Z5822.
 - 3. Special Instructions must be added stating: "Hearing Aid Batteries: Please submit the manufacturer's invoice indicating the cost of each battery."

C. Repairs and/or Modifications

1. An authorization for minor repairs or modifications shall be issued for eight units for a 12 month period or two units per quarter for each hearing aid using HCPCS code V5014.
2. Special Instructions must state: "Repair/modification claims using this authorization are limited to \$25.00 per unit. Please request a separate authorization for more extensive repairs."

D. Accessories

1. An authorization for accessories for a new hearing aid shall be for five units, using HCPCS code V5267.
2. Renewal authorizations for accessories shall be four units for a 12 month period or one unit per quarter for each hearing aid, using HCPCS code V5267.
3. Special Instructions must state: "Accessory claims submitted using this authorization are limited to \$50.00 per unit. Please submit a request, including medical necessity documentation, for more costly items."

E. Ear Molds

1. Authorization for ear molds shall be provided to hearing aid dispensers working in conjunction with a CDC, using HCPCS code V5264, with a quantity of four units for a 12 month period with one unit per quarter for each hearing aid.
2. Two units per quarter per hearing aid may be authorized for children under two years of age.

If you have questions regarding these policy changes, please contact the nurse consultant at your CMS Regional Office.

Original Signed By

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Children's Medical Services Branch