



TOBY DOUGLAS
DIRECTOR

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
Department of Health Care Services



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR

October 17, 2011

N.L.: 08-1011

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

SUBJECT: GENETICS EVALUATION FOR CHILDREN WITH HEARING LOSS

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Numbered Letter (NL) is to provide policy and instructions regarding the authorization of the Service Code Grouping (SCG) 01 for a medical genetics evaluation.

BACKGROUND

The Joint Committee on Infant Hearing (JCIH) has long advocated and advised that a genetics consultation should be offered to families with infants diagnosed with hearing loss. The evaluation can provide information on the etiology of the hearing loss, prognosis for progression, and associated disorders (e.g., renal, vision, cardiac) and syndromes. Knowledge of the etiology of hearing loss assists the audiologist with developing follow-up evaluation schedules for monitoring possible progressive hearing loss, and treatment recommendations with regard to communication options, hearing aids, and cochlear implant candidacy. With continued progress in research in genetics and hearing loss, the genetics evaluation has become a standard of care for children identified with hearing loss.

POLICY

The Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) medical and professional codes for a genetics evaluation are included in the SCG 01 used for physician authorizations. HCPCS codes requested by the audiologist or physician that are included in the SCG 01 are a benefit for Medi-Cal, CCS and Healthy Families recipients that have been diagnosed with a CCS-eligible hearing loss and opened for treatment of the hearing loss. A separate authorization of the SCG 01 to a paneled geneticist is not a duplication of services and can be authorized upon the request of an audiologist or physician referring the child for the genetics evaluation. Services performed by a non-

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physician genetics counselor must be supervised by the physician with the SCG 01 authorization.

IMPLEMENTATION

Upon request of the audiologist or physician providing treatment of the hearing loss, the medical genetics physician must be authorized the SCG 01 for 180 days from the date of the Service Authorization Request (SAR) provided by the audiologist or physician.

The authorization for the genetics evaluation can be extended upon request through the program eligibility period if additional time is necessary.

The special instructions on the SAR should indicate: "Authorization of genetics evaluation to determine etiology of beneficiary's hearing loss."

Should you have any questions regarding the authorization of the genetics evaluation, please contact the State Audiology Consultants at AudConsult@dhcs.ca.gov.

Thank you for your services to California's children.

Original Signed By Dr. Dimand

Robert Dimand, M.D.
Chief Medical Officer
Children's Medical Services