



MISSISSIPPI DIVISION OF
MEDICAID

Administrative Code

Title 23: Medicaid
Part 218
Hearing Services

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Title 23: Division of Medicaid

Part 218: Hearing Services

Part 218 Chapter 1: General

Rule 1.1: Provider Enrollment Requirements

- A. State-licensed audiologists and physicians must render services within their scope of practice.
- B. All providers of Medicaid services must meet all of the applicable requirements for enrollment as outlined in Miss. Admin. Code Title 23, Part 200, Chapter 4.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. § 43-13-121; 42 CFR 440.110; 42 CFR 455, Subpart E

History: Revised eff. 08/01/2026.

Rule 1.2: Cochlear Implants

- A. Medicaid covers for unilateral cochlear implantation when there is documentation that demonstrates the procedure is medically necessary and would be beneficial in reducing limitations of hearing impairment.
- B. The following must be documented by the surgeon and/or audiologist:
 - 1. Severe to profound sensorineural hearing loss in both ears as defined by FDA criteria with a lack of benefit from a well-fitting aid,
 - 2. Cognitive ability to use auditory clues, patient motivation and a willingness to undergo an extended program of rehabilitation,
 - 3. Freedom from middle ear infection, an accessible cochlear lumen that is structurally suited to implantation and freedom from lesions in the auditory nerve and acoustic areas of the central nervous system,
 - 4. No contraindications to surgery, and
 - 5. The device must be used in accordance with the FDA approved labeling.
- C. Documentation for children twelve (12) months of age to seventeen (17) years of age must include:
 - 1. The onset of hearing impairment must have occurred during the pre-or post-linguistic period, and
 - 2. Bilateral severe to profound sensorineural deafness must be demonstrated by the inability

to improve on age-appropriate closed set word identification tasks with amplification, or lack of progress in auditory training.

D. Documentation for adults eighteen (18) years of age and older must include:

1. The onset of hearing impairment must have occurred during the pre-linguistic, peri-linguistic, or post-linguistic period, and
2. Post-linguistic deafened adults must demonstrate current FDA guidelines on test scores on sentence recognition scores from tape-recorded tests in the beneficiary's best listening condition.

E. Medicaid covers bilateral cochlear implantation when there is documentation that demonstrates the procedure is medically necessary and would be beneficial in reducing limitations of hearing impairment. Bilateral cochlear implantation must meet all of the criteria for unilateral cochlear implantation, above, in addition to the following criteria and circumstances.

F. Medicaid covers bilateral cochlear implants under two (2) different circumstances:

1. Simultaneous bilateral cochlear implants, and
2. Subsequent contralateral cochlear implantation in patients who have already received a previous unilateral cochlear implant.

G. Simultaneous bilateral cochlear implants are covered for beneficiaries who:

1. Have significant deafness, caused by meningitis with subsequent risk for early cochlear ossification, and, in the opinion of the treating physician, are appropriate candidates for bilateral cochlear implantation for the syndrome of post-meningitis deafness prior to cochlear ossification, or
2. Pre-lingually deaf children with profound hearing loss, and who, in the opinion of the treating specialist physician, would benefit from the additional neuronal stimulation afforded by simultaneous bilateral cochlear implantation at an early age. Some patients in this category may, in the opinion of the treating specialist physician, benefit from a staged or subsequent contralateral cochlear implantation as opposed to a simultaneous implantation.

H. Subsequent contralateral cochlear implantation are covered for beneficiaries who:

1. Have bilateral profound deafness that have fallen short of communication goals despite prior placement of a unilateral cochlear implant, and in the opinion of the treating specialist physician, would substantially benefit from a subsequent contralateral cochlear implant,

2. Are prelingually deaf children with bilateral profound hearing loss who have had prior unilateral cochlear implantation and who, in the opinion of the treating specialist physician, would substantially benefit from a subsequent contralateral cochlear implant, or
 3. Have bilateral auditory neuropathy to the extent such that their cochlear function is structurally normal but who have abnormal findings on auditory brainstem response testing, and, in the opinion of the treating specialist physician, would substantially benefit from a subsequent contralateral cochlear implant.
- I. Medicaid does not cover for bilateral cochlear implantation, either as a simultaneous procedure or a subsequent contralateral implantation if, in the opinion of the treating physician, audiologist, or therapist, the beneficiary has sufficient limited hearing in the lesser affected ear either could either be:
 1. Sufficiently augmented by a hearing aid to augment the opposite cochlear implant, or
 2. Could later benefit from a future surgical or other medical intervention to improve the hearing in the non-implanted ear.
 - J. Medicaid covers a subsequent contra-lateral cochlear implant procedure, the testing, services and procedures, to properly evaluate a beneficiary and address the proper post-operative care and therapy for a second cochlear implant, when the beneficiary already has a unilateral cochlear implant.
 - K. Medicaid does not cover the cost of the cochlear implant device through the Durable Medical Equipment program. The cost of the device is covered by the usual reimbursement methodology for either inpatient or outpatient hospital services and must be billed by the hospital. Medicaid does not cover additional benefits for the device if the surgical procedure is performed in any other outpatient settings.
 - L. Medicaid covers the repair and/or replacement of the cochlear implant external speech processor and other minor supplies including batteries, cords, battery charger, and headsets through the Durable Medical Equipment (DME) program. Medicaid covers these items for all beneficiaries by DME providers only. Medicaid requires prior approval for repairs or replacements of external implant parts.
 - M. Medicaid requires documentation by the provider of rehabilitative services supporting medical necessity and must be retained in the beneficiary's medical record.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. § 43-13-121

Rule 1.3: Implantable and Non-Implantable Auditory Osseointegrated Device (AOD)

- A. The Division of Medicaid defines an implantable auditory osseointegrated device (AOD) as a surgically implantable hearing system which transmits sound vibrations through a sound

processor to the inner ear by direct bone conduction through the skull.

1. The Division of Medicaid covers implantable AODs in accordance with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved labeling in an Ambulatory Surgical Center (ASC) and the outpatient hospital setting for beneficiaries five (5) years of age and older with conductive, mixed, or single-sided sensorineural hearing loss who can benefit from sound amplification, meets FDA approved audiologic criteria for the prescribed implantable AOD, and meets at least one (1) of the following conditions:
 - a) Congenital, surgical, or acquired malformation(s) of the external ear canal or middle ear,
 - b) Severe chronic otitis externa or otitis media with persistent otorrhea and documented failure with air conducted hearing aids,
 - c) Tumors of the external ear canal and/or tympanic cavity,
 - d) Dermatitis of the external canal, or
 - e) Other anatomic or medical conditions in which an air conduction hearing aid is contraindicated.
 2. The Division of Medicaid does not cover implantable AODs for beneficiaries:
 - a) Under five (5) years of age,
 - b) With bilateral sensorineural hearing loss, or
 - c) With insufficient bone volume or bone quality to support implant placement.
- B. The Division of Medicaid defines a non-implantable AOD as a sound processor attached to the skull using a hard or soft headband in which sound vibrations are transmitted transcutaneously through the bones of the skull to the inner ear.
1. The Division of Medicaid covers non-implantable AODs in accordance with the FDA approved labeling when prior authorized by a Utilization Management/Quality Improvement Organization (UM/QIO), the Division of Medicaid, or designee for beneficiaries with conductive, mixed, or single-sided sensorineural hearing loss who can benefit from sound amplification, meets FDA approved audiologic criteria for the prescribed non-implantable AOD and meets at least one (1) of the conditions listed in Miss. Admin. Code Part 218, Rule 1.3.A.1.a)-e).
 2. The Division of Medicaid does not cover the following:
 - a) Non-implantable AODs for bilateral sensorineural hearing loss,

- b) Replacement of lost or stolen processors, or
 - c) Non-medically necessary accessories.
- C. The Division of Medicaid covers batteries, repairs, and external replacement parts for implantable and non-implantable AODs as outlined in Miss. Admin. Code Part 209, Rule 1.24.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. § 43-13-121.

History: Revised eff. 12/01/2015.

Rule 1.4: Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT)

The Division of Medicaid pays for all medically necessary services for EPSDT-eligible beneficiaries in accordance with Part 223 of Title 23, without regard to service limitations and with prior authorization.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. § 43-13-121