

# Children's Hospital and Health System Chorus Community Health Plans Policy and Procedure

This policy applies to the following entity(s):

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> CHW – Milwaukee                         | <input type="checkbox"/> CHW - Fox Valley                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CHHS Foundation                         | <input type="checkbox"/> CHW - Surgicenter                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CHW – Community Services Division       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chorus Community Health Plans |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children's Medical Group - Primary Care | <input type="checkbox"/> Children's Specialty Group               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children's Medical Group - Urgent Care  | <input type="checkbox"/> CHHS Corporate Departments               |

## Medical Utilization Management Policy

**SUBJECT: HEARING AIDS, WEARABLE**

### INCLUDED PRODUCT(S):

#### Medicaid

BadgerCare Plus

Care4Kids Program

#### Individual and Family

Commercial

Marketplace

### PURPOSE OR DESCRIPTION:

The purpose of this policy is to define criteria for the medically necessary use of wearable sound amplifying in-the-ear (ITE), behind-the-ear (BTE), or in-the-canal (ITC) hearing aids. This policy does not apply to bone conduction hearing aids, whether implanted or removable (headband or adhesive).

### POLICY

ITE, BTE, and ITC hearing aids will be considered medically necessary if:

1. They are used to compensate for sensorineural hearing loss of moderate or worse severity, though hearing aids for members with lesser severity hearing loss may still be medically necessary depending upon a specific justification provided by their treating providers (e.g., occupational need).

AND

2. Hearing aids were prescribed by a licensed audiologist

Effective: 2/16

Revised: 3/18

Reviewed: 10/21

Q: \CCHP Leadership\Utilization Management Medical Policies\APPROVED MEDICAL UM POLICIES\Hearing Aids Wearable Medical UM Policy

Developed by: CCHP Medical Directors and Executive Director Health Plan Clinical Services

AND

3. The member has been examined by a physician who has provided medical clearance for hearing aid use.

For medically necessary hearing aids, coverage includes the hearing aid device, associated charges for fitting and testing, dispensing fees, and batteries.

ITE, BTE, and ITC hearing aids may be replaced every 5 years for adults and every 3 years for children ages 17 and under. At the discretion of CCHP, hearing aids may be replaced once due to loss within the device lifespan (5 years for adults, 3 years for children).

## **REFERENCES**

*A Systematic Review of Health-Related Quality of Life and Hearing Aids: Final Report of the American Academy of Audiology Task Force on the Health-Related Quality of Life Benefits of Amplification in Adults (Journal of the American Academy of Audiology, Volume 18:2, 2007)*

State of Wisconsin Forward Health Portal: (accessed 02/09/2016)

[https://www.forwardhealth.wi.gov/WIPortal/Online%20Handbooks/Display/tabid/152/Default.aspx?ia=1&p=1&sa=28&s=2&c=61&nt=An Overview&adv=Y](https://www.forwardhealth.wi.gov/WIPortal/Online%20Handbooks/Display/tabid/152/Default.aspx?ia=1&p=1&sa=28&s=2&c=61&nt=An%20Overview&adv=Y)

Effective: 2/16

Revised: 3/18

Reviewed: 10/21

Q: \CCHP Leadership\Utilization Management Medical Policies\APPROVED MEDICAL UM POLICIES\Hearing Aids Wearable Medical UM Policy

Developed by: CCHP Medical Directors and Executive Director Health Plan Clinical Services