



# Geisinger Health Plan Policies and Procedure Manual

**Policy: MP276**

**Section: Medical Benefit Policy**

**Subject: Hearing Aids**

**Applicable line of business:**

|                   |          |                 |          |
|-------------------|----------|-----------------|----------|
| <b>Commercial</b> |          | <b>Medicaid</b> | <b>x</b> |
| <b>Medicare</b>   | <b>x</b> | <b>ACA</b>      |          |
| <b>CHIP</b>       |          |                 |          |

**I. Policy: Hearing Aids**

**II. Purpose/Objective:**

To provide a policy of coverage regarding Hearing Aids

**III. Responsibility:**

- A. Medical Directors
- B. Medical Management

**IV. Required Definitions**

1. Attachment – a supporting document that is developed and maintained by the policy writer or department requiring/authoring the policy.
2. Exhibit – a supporting document developed and maintained in a department other than the department requiring/authoring the policy.
3. Devised – the date the policy was implemented.
4. Revised – the date of every revision to the policy, including typographical and grammatical changes.
5. Reviewed – the date documenting the annual review if the policy has no revisions necessary.

**Commercial**

Geisinger Health Plan may refer collectively to health care coverage sponsors Geisinger Health Plan, Geisinger Quality Options, Inc., and Geisinger Indemnity Insurance Company, unless otherwise noted. Geisinger Health Plan is part of Geisinger, an integrated health care delivery and coverage organization.

**Medicare**

Geisinger Gold Medicare Advantage HMO, PPO, and HMO D-SNP plans are offered by Geisinger Health Plan/Geisinger Indemnity Insurance Company, health plans with a Medicare contract. Continued enrollment in Geisinger Gold depends on contract renewal. Geisinger Health Plan/Geisinger Indemnity Insurance Company are part of Geisinger, an integrated health care delivery and coverage organization.

**CHIP**

Geisinger Health Plan Kids (GHP Kids) is a Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) offered by Geisinger Health Plan in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (DHS). Geisinger Health Plan is part of Geisinger, an integrated health care delivery and coverage organization.

**Medicaid**

Geisinger Health Plan Family (GHP Family) is a Medical Assistance (Medicaid) insurance program offered by Geisinger Health Plan in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (DHS). Geisinger Health Plan is part of Geisinger, an integrated health care delivery and coverage organization.

## **V. Additional Definitions**

Medical Necessity or Medically Necessary means Covered Services rendered by a Health Care Provider that the Plan determines are:

- a. appropriate for the symptoms and diagnosis or treatment of the Member's condition, illness, disease or injury;
- b. provided for the diagnosis, and the direct care and treatment of the Member's condition, illness disease or injury;
- c. in accordance with current standards of good medical treatment practiced by the general medical community.
- d. not primarily for the convenience of the Member, or the Member's Health Care Provider; and
- e. the most appropriate source or level of service that can safely be provided to the Member. When applied to hospitalization, this further means that the Member requires acute care as an inpatient due to the nature of the services rendered or the Member's condition, and the Member cannot receive safe or adequate care as an outpatient.

### **Medicaid Business Segment**

Medically Necessary — A service, item, procedure, or level of care that is necessary for the proper treatment or management of an illness, injury, or disability is one that:

- Will, or is reasonably expected to, prevent the onset of an illness, condition, injury or disability.
- Will, or is reasonably expected to, reduce or ameliorate the physical, mental or developmental effects of an illness, condition, injury or disability.
- Will assist the Member to achieve or maintain maximum functional capacity in performing daily activities, taking into account both the functional capacity of the Member and those functional capacities that are appropriate for Members of the same age

### **DESCRIPTION:**

Hearing aids are devices that amplify and deliver speech and other sounds at levels equivalent to that of normal speech and conversation. Hearing aids can be categorized as air conduction, bone conduction and middle ear hearing aids. They are also categorized by the means with which they process incoming signals, such as analog, digitally programmable, and digital signal processing.

### **INDICATIONS:**

**The following criteria will apply for Medicaid Business Segment:**

#### **Monaural or Binaural hearing aid:**

- A medical clearance signed and dated by the physician within six months prior to dispensing the hearing aid; and
- Documentation of communication need and a statement that the member is able to utilize the aid appropriately; and
- Audiogram completed within the past six months, signed, dated by the audiologist, along with the recommendation for hearing aid documenting a hearing loss of 25 dB HL or greater at frequency of at least 500 Hz in the ear(s) to be aided for members under the age of 21. An auditory evoked potential test will be accepted in lieu of an audiogram in individuals unable to participate in a traditional audiogram either due to age or infirmity.
- significant vocational, educational demands, or other needs for normal development activity as documented by the ordering provider.

### **LIMITATIONS:**

Services are to be provided by a contracted provider who is a licensed hearing aid dealer or licensed audiologist affiliated with a hearing center.

### **SEE ALSO:**

- MP053 Cochlear Implant
- MP135 Osseointegrated Hearing Device (eg. Bone Anchored hearing Aid (BAHA) Hearing Device)

### **Medicaid Business Segment:**

Any requests for services, that do not meet criteria set in the PARP, may be evaluated on a case by case basis.

## **Medicare Business Segment**

Please see Medicare Benefit Policy Manual, Ch 16, Section 100

<https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/downloads/bp102c16.pdf>

**Note: A complete description of the process by which a given technology or service is evaluated and determined to be experimental, investigational or unproven is outlined in MP 15 - Experimental Investigational or Unproven Services or Treatment.**

**CODING ASSOCIATED With: Hearing Aid**

*The following codes are included below for informational purposes and may not be all inclusive. Inclusion of a procedure or device code(s) does not constitute or imply coverage nor does it imply or guarantee provider reimbursement. Coverage is determined by the member specific benefit plan document and any applicable laws regarding coverage of specific services. Please note that per Medicare coverage rules, only specific CPT/HCPCS Codes may be covered for the Medicare Business Segment. Please consult the CMS website at [www.cms.gov](http://www.cms.gov) or the local Medicare Administrative Carrier (MAC) for more information on Medicare coverage and coding requirements.*

V5252 hearing aid, digitally programmable, binaural, ITE  
V5253 hearing aid, digitally programmable, binaural, BTE  
V5244 hearing aid, digitally programmable analog, monaural, CIC  
V5245 hearing aid, digitally programmable, analog, monaural, ITC  
V5246 hearing aid, digitally programmable analog, monaural, ITE (in the ear)  
V5247 hearing aid, digitally programmable analog, monaural, BTE (behind the ear)

Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®) © American Medical Association: Chicago, IL.

**LINE OF BUSINESS:**

**Eligibility and contract specific benefits, limitations and/or exclusions will apply. Coverage statements found in the line of business specific benefit document will supersede this policy. For Medicare, applicable LCD's and NCD's will supercede this policy. For PA Medicaid Business segment, this policy applies as written.**

**REFERENCES:**

Pennsylvania Code § 1123.57. Hearing aids

This policy will be revised as necessary and reviewed no less than annually.

**Devised:** 5/2013

**Revised:** 7/15 (revised Indications, removed Exclusion); 11/15 (remove prior auth requirement); 12/20 (add cross-reference to associated policies); 12/25 (Add Medicare cross reference)

**Reviewed:** 7/14; 7/16, 1/17, 12/17, 12/18, 12/19, 12/21, 12/22, 12/23, 12/24

**CMS UM Oversight Committee Approval:** 12/23, 2/25, 2/26

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Coverage for experimental or investigational treatments, services and procedures is specifically excluded under the member's certificate with Geisinger Health Plan. Unproven services outside of an approved clinical trial are also specifically excluded under the member's certificate with Geisinger Health Plan. This policy does not expand coverage to services or items specifically excluded from coverage in the member's certificate with Geisinger Health Plan. Additional information can be found in MP015 Experimental, Investigational or Unproven Services.

Prior authorization and/or pre-certification requirements for services or items may apply. Pre-certification lists may be found in the member's contract specific benefit document. Prior authorization requirements can be found at <https://www.geisinger.org/health-plan/providers/ghp-clinical-policies>

Please be advised that the use of the logos, service marks or names of Geisinger Health Plan, Geisinger Quality Options, Inc. and Geisinger Indemnity Insurance Company on a marketing, press releases or any communication piece regarding the contents of this medical policy is strictly prohibited without the prior written consent of Geisinger Health Plan. Additionally, the above medical policy does not confer any endorsement by Geisinger Health Plan, Geisinger Quality Options, Inc. and Geisinger Indemnity Insurance Company regarding the medical service, medical device or medical lab test described under this medical policy.