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EDUCATION AND LABOR CABINET

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SERVICE FEE MEMORANDUM

Hearing Aids

TO: Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Staff
Client Assistance Program Administrator

FROM: Executive Director
Office of Vocational Rehabilitation

THROUGH: Deaf and Hard of Hearing Branch Manager
Office of Vocational Rehabilitation

DATE: Effective: January 01, 2026

Introduction

Open fit, receiver in the ear, and post auricle hearing aids are considered typical hearing aid technologies. The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) may assist with the cost so long as they are within OVR price guidelines. Exceptions to price guidelines must be made to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services (DHHS) Branch Manager.

Financial Participation

Hearing aids are a nonexempt service and will be subject to the current consumer financial participation.

Hearing Aid Guidelines

Speech and/or hearing assessments or evaluations:

Use Expenditure Code 10C for speech and/or hearing assessments or evaluations.

A comprehensive audiometric evaluation and hearing aid evaluation must be provided by a licensed/board certified audiologist. Provision by a licensed professional other than an audiologist will require an exception. Only a board-certified audiologist may perform and bill for a comprehensive audiometric evaluation.

An outcome measurement must be performed to validate the purchase of technology (i.e., aided audiogram, real ear, aided speech, or the hearing aid diary, testing in noise, etc.). An evaluation of the auditory system from a physician skilled in the diseases of the ear (otolaryngologist) should be provided when symptoms of ear pathology and/or conductive hearing loss are present.

A communication assessment must be completed by a Communication Specialist before the purchase of hearing aids. The communication assessment should cover communication difficulties in basic areas such as face-to-face communications, telephone communications, environmental sounds and situations, small group and large group situations, and electronic media/special equipment in settings such as work, school/home, etc. This information is helpful to determine the appropriate hearing aid circuitry and assistive devices needed to meet the consumer's communication demands on the job.

Board certified audiologists working with OVR consumers who have insurance shall file a claim unless written notice can be obtained to verify the lack of coverage for the hearing aids. When insurance is available, OVR will process payment based on the Explanation of Benefits (EOB) and OVR reimbursement Policies and Procedures.

Hearing Aids

Use Expenditure Code 92G and the Consumer Services budget for hearing aids.

The Expenditure Code for hearing aid accessories is 92H (dry n' store, batteries, etc.). The following Expenditure Category Codes remain under Rehabilitation Technology and are also to be purchased out of the Consumer Services regular budget. Please use these codes when purchasing Rehabilitation Technology for deaf or hard of hearing consumers.

OVR will only purchase Behind-The-Ear or Full Shell In-The-Ear hearing aids that are Frequency Modulation/Assistive Listening Device ready or compatible (i.e., wireless connectivity or manual [not auto] telecoil). **The maximum allowable fee for a hearing aid (conventional, programmable, and digital) is \$1,200.00**, which shall include the cost of the hearing aid, any additional circuitry needed, and Frequency Modulation compatible option (wireless connectivity or telecoil).

Exceptions

Use code 00080 for exceptions. An exception form is needed for **amounts exceeding \$1,200.00**. Exceptions require approval from the DHHS Branch Manager prior to purchasing a hearing aid, cochlear implant, or bone anchored hearing system. To request an exception, send the exception form, hearing test, and hearing aid recommendation, eligibility form, insurance verification, financial form, and communication assessment to the DHHS Branch Manager in Central Office for approval.

Once approval is obtained, you must then indicate on the description line on the pay authorization the specific exception (i.e. InThe-Canal, Completely-In-The-Canal, or Behind-The-Ear/In-The-Ear hearing aid if provided by a vendor outside the vendor list).

The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation has price agreements with Oticon, Phonak, ReSound, Signia, Starkey, Unitron and Widex (includes hearing aid accessories and Frequency Modulation/Assistive Listening Devices). Please note that extended warranties are included in agreements. A hearing aid recommendation from any other manufacturer requires an exception to the DHHS Branch Manager. Vendor will attach a Vocational Rehabilitation authorization to hearing aid orders to verify the OVR discount to the manufacturer.

Expenditure Codes

Expenditure Code	Device
92D	<p>Telecommunication Devices (for deaf or hard of hearing individuals).</p> <p><u>Examples:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Telecommunication Device for the Deaf • Amplified telephones

Expenditure Code	Device
92E	Assistive Listening Devices (see separate Service Fee Memo) <u>Examples:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A Bluetooth device,• FM Systems/microphones.
92F	Alerting Devices (for deaf or hard of hearing individuals). <u>Examples:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Flashing/vibrating alarm clocks,• Flashing vibrating phone• Door signalers.
92H	Hearing Aid Accessories <u>Examples:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Domes• Filters• Dehumidifiers• Cleaning Kits• Chargers

Hearing Aid Fee Schedule Codes

Code	Procedure	Rate
00072 CPT Ref: 92631	Hearing Aid Selection Services Conventional Hearing Aid or Digital/Programable Hearing Aid Not to exceed \$1,200.00 Use OVR Price list: Oticon, Phonak, Signia, Starkey, ReSound, Unitron, or Widex.	Enter OVR Price Expenditure Code: 92G Consumer Services Budget
00077 CPT Ref: 92634	Original Custom Earmold (Behind-the-Ear only) Use OVR Price List: Oticon, Phonak, Signia, Starkey, ReSound, Unitron, or Widex.	Enter OVR price up to \$75.00 Expenditure Code: 92G Consumer Services Budget
00076 CPT Ref: 92634	Hearing Aid Fitting Services (Initial Fitting)	\$150.00 Expenditure Code: 24F Consumer Services Budget
00080	Hearing Aid Exceptions Require Deaf and Hard of Hearing Branch approval (i.e., items more than \$1,200.00 or that are not on the OVR price list).	By Report Expenditure Code: 92G Consumer Services Budget

Code	Procedure	Rate
00083 CPT Ref: 92636	Hearing Aid Follow-Up Services for Conventional Aids Up to 6 visits during first year for adjustments	\$350.00 Expenditure Code: 24F Consumer Services Budget
00084 CPT Ref: 92636	Hearing Aid Follow-Up Services for Digital Aids Up to 6 visits during first year for adjustments	\$500.00 Expenditure Code: 24F Consumer Services Budget
00085 CPT Ref: 92628	Hearing Aid Test (one ear)	\$75.00 Consumer Services Budget
00086 CPT Ref: 92628	Hearing Aid Test (both ears)	\$90.00 Consumer Services Budget