



New Priority Partners: Audiology Services for Children and Adults July 1, 2018

Starting July 1, 2018, Priority Partners, in cooperation with the Maryland Department of Health's (MDH) HealthChoice program, will begin providing the following benefits to all Medicaid participants, regardless of age:

- Medically necessary audiology services
- Hearing aids
- Cochlear implants
- Auditory osseointegrated devices

Prior to this effective date, audiology coverage was limited to participants under the age of 21 and provided through the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) program.

Coverage details—including the MDH's new benefit package, fee schedule and pre-authorization requirements for audiology services—are published in a revised Audiology Services section of the EPSDT manual. To access the Audiology Services section:

1. Go to <https://mmcp.health.maryland.gov/epsdt/Pages/Home.aspx>
 2. Under the left navigation panel, scroll down to Expanded EPSDT Services-Provider Manuals
 3. Click on the link for Audiology, Physical Therapy, and Early Periodic, Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) Provider Manual
- The fee-for-service schedule for audiology services will not differ for children and adults.
 - Medical necessity criteria for children and adults will vary in the new coverage package.
 - o For example, children will be eligible for coverage of unilateral or bilateral hearing aids at any degree of hearing loss.
 - o Adults with moderate hearing loss will be eligible for initial coverage of unilateral aids, with bilateral aids only covered when specific criteria are met.
 - Prior authorization is required for hearing aids, cochlear implants and auditory osseointegrated devices. Prior authorization requirements will be the same for children and adults.
 - Referrals to an audiologist by the member's PCP are required for audiology services.

Please contact the JHHC Provider Relations department at 1-888-895-4998 with any questions or concerns.