



National Coverage Determination (NCD) Update

Benefit: Cochlear Implantation

Effective Date: September 26, 2022

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) determined on September 26, 2022, to expand the coverage criteria. They have concluded that the evidence is sufficient to determine that cochlear implants will be covered for the treatment of moderate to profound, sensorineural, bilateral pre- or post-linguistic hearing loss in people who have demonstrated limited benefit from amplification. The limited benefit of amplification is defined by hearing test results less than or equal to 60% correction in the best assisted hearing condition in screening tests. Patients must meet all the following criteria:

- Diagnosis of moderate to profound bilateral sensorineural hearing impairment with limited benefit from appropriate (or vibrotactile) hearing aids;
- Cognitive ability to use auditory cues and willingness to undergo an extended rehabilitation program;
- Absence of middle ear infection, accessible cochlear lumen structurally suitable for implantation, and absence of lesions in the auditory nerve and acoustic areas of the central nervous system;
- No contraindications for surgery; and
- The equipment must be used in accordance with the provisions of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).



In addition, cochlear implants may be covered for beneficiaries not described above, participating in clinical trials for the FDA or as a routine cost of a clinical trial as established by Medicare in its national determination.

To access CMS final determination, go to:

<https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/view/ncacal-decision-memo.aspx?proposed=N&ncaid=306>

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