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Medical Policy

Implantable Bone-Conduction and Bone-Anchored Hearing Aids

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Policy Number: 479

BCBSA Reference Number: 7.01.03

Related Policies

- Auditory Brainstem Implant, [#481](#)
- Semi-Implantable and Fully Implantable Middle Ear Hearing Aid [#480](#)

Policy

Commercial Members: Managed Care (HMO and POS), PPO, and Indemnity Medicare HMO BlueSM and Medicare PPO BlueSM Members

Unilateral or bilateral implantable bone-conduction (bone-anchored) hearing aid(s) may be **MEDICALLY NECESSARY** as an alternative to an air-conduction hearing aid in patients 5 years of age and older with a conductive or mixed hearing loss who also meets at least one of the following medical criteria:

- Congenital or surgically induced malformations (e.g., atresia) of the external ear canal or middle ear
- Chronic external otitis or otitis media
- Tumors of the external canal and/or tympanic cavity, or
- Dermatitis of the external canal;

AND meets the following audiologic criteria:

- A pure tone average bone-conduction threshold measured at 0.5, 1, 2, and 3 kHz of better than or equal to 45 dB (OBC and BP100 devices), 55 dB (Intenso device) or 65 dB (Cordele II device)

For bilateral implantation, patients should meet the above audiologic criteria, and have a symmetrically conductive or mixed hearing loss as defined by a difference between left and right side bone conduction threshold of less than 10 dB on average measured at 0.5, 1, 2 and 3 kHz, or less than 15 dB at individual frequencies.

An implantable bone-conduction (bone-anchored) hearing aid may be **MEDICALLY NECESSARY** as an alternative to an air-conduction CROS hearing aid in patients 5 years of age and older with single-sided sensorineural deafness and normal hearing in the other ear. The pure tone average air conduction threshold of the normal ear should be better than 20 dB measured at 0.5, 1, 2, and 3 kHz.

Other uses of bone-conduction (bone-anchored) hearing aids, including use in patients with bilateral sensorineural hearing loss, are [INVESTIGATIONAL](#).

Partially implantable bone conduction hearing systems using magnetic coupling for acoustic transmission (e.g., Otomag Alpha 1 and BAHA Attract) are [INVESTIGATIONAL](#).

Prior Authorization Information

See below for situations where prior authorization may be required or may not be required.

Yes indicates that prior authorization is required.

No indicates that prior authorization is not required.

	Outpatient	Inpatient
Commercial Managed Care (HMO and POS)	No	Yes
Commercial PPO and Indemnity	No	Yes
Medicare HMO BlueSM	No	Yes
Medicare PPO BlueSM	No	Yes

CPT Codes / HCPCS Codes / ICD-9 Codes

The following codes are included below for informational purposes. Inclusion or exclusion of a code does not constitute or imply member coverage or provider reimbursement. Please refer to the member's contract benefits in effect at the time of service to determine coverage or non-coverage as it applies to an individual member. A draft of future ICD-10 Coding related to this document, as it might look today, is included below for your reference.

Providers should report all services using the most up-to-date industry-standard procedure, revenue, and diagnosis codes, including modifiers where applicable.

CPT Codes

CPT codes:	Code Description
69710	Implantation or replacement of electromagnetic bone conduction hearing device in temporal bone
69714	Implantation, osseointegrated implant, temporal bone, with percutaneous attachment to external speech processor/cochlear stimulator; without mastoidectomy
69715	Implantation, osseointegrated implant, temporal bone, with percutaneous attachment to external speech processor/cochlear stimulator; with mastoidectomy

HCPCS Codes

HCPCS codes:	Code Description
L8690	Auditory osseointegrated device, includes all internal and external components

ICD-9 Diagnosis Codes

ICD-9-CM diagnosis codes:	Code Description
160.1	Malignant neoplasm of auditory tube, middle ear, and mastoid air cells
173.20	Unspecified malignant neoplasm of skin of ear and external auditory canal
380.15	Chronic mycotic otitis externa
380.16	Other chronic infective otitis externa
380.23	Other chronic otitis externa
380.52	Acquired stenosis of external ear canal secondary to surgery
381.10	Chronic serous otitis media, simple or unspecified
381.19	Other chronic serous otitis media
381.20	Chronic mucoid otitis media, simple or unspecified

381.29	Other chronic mucoid otitis media
381.3	Other and unspecified chronic nonsuppurative otitis media
382.1	Chronic tubotympanic suppurative otitis media
382.2	Chronic atticoantral suppurative otitis media
382.3	Unspecified chronic suppurative otitis media
389.00	Conductive hearing loss, unspecified
389.01	Conductive hearing loss, external ear
389.02	Conductive hearing loss, tympanic membrane
389.03	Conductive hearing loss, middle ear
389.04	Conductive hearing loss, inner ear
389.05	Conductive hearing loss, unilateral
389.06	Conductive hearing loss, bilateral
389.08	Conductive hearing loss of combined types
389.13	Neural hearing loss, unilateral
389.15	Sensorineural hearing loss, unilateral
389.17	Sensory hearing loss, unilateral
389.20	Mixed hearing loss, unspecified
389.21	Mixed hearing loss, unilateral
389.22	Mixed hearing loss, bilateral
744.02	Other anomalies of external ear with impairment of hearing
744.03	Anomaly of middle ear, except ossicles

ICD-9 Procedure Codes

ICD-9-CM procedure codes:	Code Description
20.95	Implantation of electromagnetic hearing device

ICD-10 Diagnosis Codes

ICD-10-CM Diagnosis codes:	Code Description
C30.1	Malignant neoplasm of middle ear
C44.201	Unspecified malignant neoplasm of skin of unspecified ear and external auricular canal
C44.202	Unspecified malignant neoplasm of skin of right ear and external auricular canal
C44.209	Unspecified malignant neoplasm of skin of left ear and external auricular canal
H60.399	Other infective otitis externa, unspecified ear
H60.60	Unspecified chronic otitis externa, unspecified ear
H60.61	Unspecified chronic otitis externa, right ear
H60.62	Unspecified chronic otitis externa, left ear
H60.63	Unspecified chronic otitis externa, bilateral
H60.8x1	Other otitis externa, right ear
H60.8x2	Other otitis externa, left ear
H60.8x3	Other otitis externa, bilateral
H60.8x9	Other otitis externa, unspecified ear
H60.90	Unspecified otitis externa, unspecified ear
H60.91	Unspecified otitis externa, right ear
H60.92	Unspecified otitis externa, left ear
H60.93	Unspecified otitis externa, bilateral
H61.391	Other acquired stenosis of right external ear canal
H61.392	Other acquired stenosis of left external ear canal
H61.393	Other acquired stenosis of external ear canal, bilateral

H61.399	Other acquired stenosis of external ear canal, unspecified ear
H62.8x1	Other disorders of right external ear in diseases classified elsewhere
H62.8x2	Other disorders of left external ear in diseases classified elsewhere
H62.8x3	Other disorders of external ear in diseases classified elsewhere, bilateral
H62.8x9	Other disorders of external ear in diseases classified elsewhere, unspecified ear
H65.20	Chronic serous otitis media, unspecified ear
H65.21	Chronic serous otitis media, right ear
H65.22	Chronic serous otitis media, left ear
H65.23	Chronic serous otitis media, bilateral
H65.30	Chronic mucoid otitis media, unspecified ear
H65.31	Chronic mucoid otitis media, right ear
H65.32	Chronic mucoid otitis media, left ear
H65.33	Chronic mucoid otitis media, bilateral
H65.411	Chronic allergic otitis media, right ear
H65.412	Chronic allergic otitis media, left ear
H65.413	Chronic allergic otitis media, bilateral
H65.419	Chronic allergic otitis media, unspecified ear
H65.491	Other chronic nonsuppurative otitis media, right ear
H65.492	Other chronic nonsuppurative otitis media, left ear
H65.493	Other chronic nonsuppurative otitis media, bilateral
H65.499	Other chronic nonsuppurative otitis media, unspecified ear
H66.10	Chronic tubotympanic suppurative otitis media, unspecified
H66.11	Chronic tubotympanic suppurative otitis media, right ear
H66.12	Chronic tubotympanic suppurative otitis media, left ear
H66.13	Chronic tubotympanic suppurative otitis media, bilateral
H66.20	Chronic atticofacial suppurative otitis media, unspecified ear
H66.21	Chronic atticofacial suppurative otitis media, right ear
H66.22	Chronic atticofacial suppurative otitis media, left ear
H66.23	Chronic atticofacial suppurative otitis media, bilateral
H66.3X1	Other chronic suppurative otitis media, right ear
H66.3X2	Other chronic suppurative otitis media, left ear
H66.3X3	Other chronic suppurative otitis media, bilateral
H66.3X9	Other chronic suppurative otitis media, unspecified ear
H90.0	Conductive hearing loss, bilateral
H90.11	Conductive hearing loss, unilateral, right ear, with unrestricted hearing on the contralateral side
H90.12	Conductive hearing loss, unilateral, left ear, with unrestricted hearing on the contralateral side
H90.2	Conductive hearing loss, unspecified
H90.6	Mixed conductive and sensorineural hearing loss, bilateral
H90.71	Mixed conductive and sensorineural hearing loss, unilateral, right ear, with unrestricted hearing on the contralateral side
H90.72	Mixed conductive and sensorineural hearing loss, unilateral, left ear, with unrestricted hearing on the contralateral side
H90.8	Mixed conductive and sensorineural hearing loss, unspecified
Q16.1	Congenital absence, atresia and stricture of auditory canal (external)
Q16.4	Other congenital malformations of middle ear

ICD-10 Procedure Codes

ICD-10-PCS procedure codes:	Code Description
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0NH50SZ	Insertion of Hearing Device into Right Temporal Bone, Open Approach
0NH53SZ	Insertion of Hearing Device into Right Temporal Bone, Percutaneous Approach
0NH60SZ	Insertion of Hearing Device into Left Temporal Bone, Open Approach
0NH63SZ	Insertion of Hearing Device into Left Temporal Bone, Percutaneous Approach

Description

Hearing loss is described as conductive, sensorineural, or mixed, and can be unilateral or bilateral. Normal hearing is the detection of sound at or below 20 dB. The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASLHA) has defined the degree of hearing loss based on pure-tone average (PTA) detection thresholds as mild (20 to 40 dB), moderate (40 to 60 dB), severe (60 to 80 dB), and profound (greater or equal to 80 dB).

External bone-conduction hearing aids function by transmitting sound waves through the bone to the ossicles of the middle ear.

Examples of BAHA implant systems for use in children aged 5 years and older, and in adults include the BAHA® Cordelle II™, the BAHA® Divino™ from Cochlear Americas and the OBC Bone Anchored Hearing Aid System™ from Oticon Medical. An example of a partially implanted bone conduction hearing system is the Otomag Alpha 1[M]. All fully-implanted BAHA implant systems for use in children aged 5 years and older, and in adults are considered investigational regardless of the commercial name, the manufacturer or FDA approval status except when used for the medically necessary indications that are consistent with the policy statement.

All partially-implanted BAHA implant systems are considered investigational regardless of the commercial name, the manufacturer or FDA approval status.

This policy does not address non-implantable hearing aids.

Summary

Bone-conduction hearing aids function by transmitting sound waves through the bone to the ossicles of the middle ear. The available evidence for unilateral or bilateral implantable bone-conduction (bone-anchored) hearing aid(s) consists of observational studies that report pre-post differences in hearing parameters after treatment with BAHA. While this evidence is not ideal, it is sufficient to demonstrate improved net health outcome for patients 5 years of age or older in certain situations. The evidence supports the use of these devices in patients with conductive or mixed hearing loss who meet other medical and audiologic criteria. For patients with single-sided sensorineural deafness, a binaural hearing benefit may be provided by way of contralateral routing of signals to the hearing ear. There is evidence that bilateral devices improve hearing to a greater degree than do unilateral devices. Bone-anchored hearing aids may be considered as an alternative to air-conduction devices in these patients and therefore, these devices may be considered medically necessary in these situations. Given the lack of both high-quality evidence and FDA approval, other uses of bone-conduction (bone-anchored) hearing aids, including use in children younger than 5 years and patients with bilateral sensorineural hearing loss, is considered investigational.

The available evidence for partially implantable magnetic bone-conduction hearing systems is preliminary and very limited. Therefore, conclusions on net health outcomes cannot be made, and partially implantable bone-conduction hearing systems are considered investigational.

Policy History

Date	Action
7/2014	Updated Coding section with ICD10 procedure and diagnosis codes, effective 10/2015.
3/2014	BCBSA National medical policy review. Investigational statement clarified. Effective 3/1/2014.
11/2013	Coding information clarified.
5/2013	New references from BCBSA National medical policy.
2/2013	New references from BCBSA National medical policy.

11/2011-4/2012	Medical policy ICD 10 remediation: Formatting, editing and coding updates. No changes to policy statements.
12/2011	BCBSA National medical policy review. Changes to policy statements.
9/2011	BCBSA National medical policy review. Changes to policy statements.
8/2010	BCBSA National medical policy review. Changes to policy statements.
5/2010	Reviewed - Medical Policy Group - Pediatrics and Endocrinology. No changes to policy statements.
3/2010	Reviewed - Medical Policy Group - Allergy and ENT/Otolaryngology. No changes to policy statements.
5/2009	Reviewed - Medical Policy Group - Pediatrics and Endocrinology. No changes to policy statements.
3/2009	Reviewed - Medical Policy Group - Allergy and ENT/Otolaryngology. No changes to policy statements.
1/2009	BCBSA National medical policy review. No changes to policy statements.
5/2008	Reviewed - Medical Policy Group - Pediatrics and Endocrinology. No changes to policy statements.
3/2008	Reviewed - Medical Policy Group - Allergy and ENT/Otolaryngology. No changes to policy statements.
11/2007	BCBSA National medical policy review. Changes to policy statements.
5/2007	Reviewed - Medical Policy Group - Pediatrics and Endocrinology. No changes to policy statements.
3/2007	Reviewed - Medical Policy Group - Allergy and ENT/Otolaryngology. No changes to policy statements.

Information Pertaining to All Blue Cross Blue Shield Medical Policies

Click on any of the following terms to access the relevant information:

[Medical Policy Terms of Use](#)

[Managed Care Guidelines](#)

[Indemnity/PPO Guidelines](#)

[Clinical Exception Process](#)

[Medical Technology Assessment Guidelines](#)

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