

Chapter 8: Health Benefits

(ii) Hearing Aid Program

Intent:	To provide a brief overview of the services offered by the Audiology Program of the Department of Health and Community Services.
Act: (if applicable)	N/A
Regulations:	N/A
Overview: (if applicable)	<p>Overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Provincial Audiology Program is delivered through the each of the Regional Health Authorities. • Eligible beneficiaries are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All children up to and including 17 year olds (universal program) ○ Students over age 17 attending secondary or post-secondary schools full time (universal program) ○ Adults certified by the Department as unable to pay
Policy:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recipients of Income Support must arrange for their hearing aids through the Audiology Department of the applicable Regional Health Authority (RHA). • For servicing, recipients who have problems with hearing aids should contact their local hospital based Audiology Department, or the Audiology Department that issued the device. • Batteries are not covered, as they are considered routine maintenance. • Certain temporary provisions may be made through a hearing aid dispenser working in a remote area and can be arranged, where appropriate, through the Audiology Program Director in order to reduce travel costs to the nearest issuing centre.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appointments should already be scheduled with the Audiologist prior to applications accepted by this Department to determine eligibility for a hearing aid. Appointment scheduling can be quite some time in the future and the applicants financial circumstances may change during that period. • Any adult resident of the province requesting financial assistance with the cost of hearing aids (through HCS) can apply to the Department to undergo a financial eligibility assessment. Individuals receiving Supportive Services through a RHA must request an assessment for approval through their Social Worker with the RHA.
Procedure:	<p>Client Services Officers must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine eligibility by using the 30 day needs assessment criteria and including the cost of the hearing aid in the requirements. • If eligible, provide an Authorization for Health Benefits for the hearing aid directly to the applicant for presentation, or send it to the Audiology Department of the particular Health Region. These requests do not need to be sent to the Pay Authorization Unit for verification. • When applicants with private insurance request an assessment and are deemed eligible without the insurance contribution, provide an Authorization for Health Benefits indicating that the individual has private coverage. This will allow the Health Authority to bill the insurance company directly.
Authority Level:	Client Services Officer
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