

To all beneficiaries enrolled in a Prepaid Health Plan (PHP): for questions about benefits and services available on or after implementation, please contact your PHP.

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NC Medicaid	Medicaid
Cochlear and Auditory Brainstem Implant	Clinical Coverage Policy No: 13A
External Parts Replacement and Repair	Amended Date: April 1, 2023

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Related Clinical Coverage Policies

Refer to <https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/> for the related coverage policies listed below:
1A-4, Cochlear and Auditory Brainstem Implants

1.0 Description of the Procedure, Product, or Service

Replacement and repair of external components of a cochlear or auditory brainstem implant device that are necessary to maintain the device's ability to analyze and code sound, therefore providing an awareness and identification of sounds and facilitating communication for individuals with severe to profound hearing loss.

Refer to **Attachment A, Claims-Related Information**, for a detailed list of procedure codes and descriptions.

This policy does not address cochlear and auditory brainstem surgical implant coverage. For eligible beneficiaries with severe to profound hearing loss requiring implantation, refer to clinical coverage policy *1A-4, Cochlear and Auditory Brainstem Implants*, on NC Medicaid's website at <https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/>.

1.1 Definitions

None Apply.

2.0 Eligibility Requirements**2.1 Provisions****2.1.1 General**

(The term "General" found throughout this policy applies to all Medicaid policies)

- a. An eligible beneficiary shall be enrolled in the NC Medicaid Program *(Medicaid is NC Medicaid program, unless context clearly indicates otherwise)*;
- b. Provider(s) shall verify each Medicaid beneficiary's eligibility each time a service is rendered.
- c. The Medicaid beneficiary may have service restrictions due to their eligibility category that would make them ineligible for this service.

2.1.2 Specific

(The term “Specific” found throughout this policy only applies to this policy)

- a. **Medicaid**
None Apply.

2.2 Special Provisions

2.2.1 EPSDT Special Provision: Exception to Policy Limitations for a Medicaid Beneficiary under 21 Years of Age

- a. **42 U.S.C. § 1396d(r) [1905(r) of the Social Security Act]**

Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) is a federal Medicaid requirement that requires the state Medicaid agency to cover services, products, or procedures for Medicaid beneficiary under 21 years of age **if** the service is **medically necessary health care** to correct or ameliorate a defect, physical or mental illness, or a condition [health problem] identified through a screening examination (includes any evaluation by a physician or other licensed practitioner).

This means EPSDT covers most of the medical or remedial care a child needs to improve or maintain his or her health in the best condition possible, compensate for a health problem, prevent it from worsening, or prevent the development of additional health problems.

Medically necessary services will be provided in the most economic mode, as long as the treatment made available is similarly efficacious to the service requested by the beneficiary’s physician, therapist, or other licensed practitioner; the determination process does not delay the delivery of the needed service; and the determination does not limit the beneficiary’s right to a free choice of providers.

EPSDT does not require the state Medicaid agency to provide any service, product or procedure:

1. that is unsafe, ineffective, or experimental or investigational.
2. that is not medical in nature or not generally recognized as an accepted method of medical practice or treatment.

Service limitations on scope, amount, duration, frequency, location of service, and other specific criteria described in clinical coverage policies may be exceeded or may not apply as long as the provider’s documentation shows that the requested service is medically necessary “to correct or ameliorate a defect, physical or mental illness, or a condition” [health problem]; that is, provider documentation shows how the service, product, or procedure meets all EPSDT criteria, including to correct or improve or maintain the beneficiary’s health in the best condition possible, compensate for a health problem, prevent it from worsening, or prevent the development of additional health problems.

b. EPSDT and Prior Approval Requirements

1. If the service, product, or procedure requires prior approval, the fact that the beneficiary is under 21 years of age does **NOT** eliminate the requirement for prior approval.

- a. **IMPORTANT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION** about EPSDT and prior approval is found in the *NCTracks Provider Claims and Billing Assistance Guide*, and on the EPSDT provider page. The Web addresses are specified below.

NCTracks Provider Claims and Billing Assistance Guide:

<https://www.nctracks.nc.gov/content/public/providers/provider-manuals.html>

EPSDT provider page: <https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/>

3.0 When the Procedure, Product, or Service Is Covered

Note: Refer to Subsection 2.2.1 regarding EPSDT Exception to Policy Limitations for a Medicaid Beneficiary under 21 Years of Age.

3.1 General Criteria Covered

Medicaid shall cover the procedure, product, or service related to this policy when medically necessary, and:

- a. the procedure, product, or service is individualized, specific, and consistent with symptoms or confirmed diagnosis of the illness or injury under treatment, and not in excess of the beneficiary's needs;
- b. the procedure, product, or service can be safely furnished, and no equally effective and more conservative or less costly treatment is available statewide; and
- c. the procedure, product, or service is furnished in a manner not primarily intended for the convenience of the beneficiary, the beneficiary's caretaker, or the provider.

3.2 Specific Criteria Covered

3.2.1 Specific criteria covered by Medicaid

Medicaid shall cover cochlear and auditory brainstem implant external parts replacement and repair when **all** of the following conditions are met:

- a. The implanted device being repaired is FDA approved and meets all Medicaid standards of coverage under Clinical Coverage Policy #1A-4, *Cochlear and Auditory Brainstem Implant*.
- b. The implanted device is in continuous use and still meets the needs of the beneficiary.
- c. Replacement or repair is necessary to allow the implanted device to be functional.
- d. The treating licensed audiologist has obtained a physician's medical clearance with complete information regarding the implant system and surgery date(s) and submitted it to the provider.

Refer to **Section 6.0, Providers Eligible to Bill for the Product or Service**, for specific criteria regarding eligible providers.

- e. The treating licensed audiologist has documentation that substantiates the need for the replacement or repair of external part(s) and submitted it to the provider.

Refer to **Subsection 5.5, Required Documentation**, for specific criteria regarding required documentation from the treating licensed audiologist.

- f. The component or service is furnished at a safe, efficacious, and cost-effective level.
- g. Additionally, all replacement speech processors, except those covered under warranty, require prior approval. Refer to **Subsection 5.4, Prior Approval for Replacement Speech Processors**, for specific information regarding additional criteria for replacement speech processors.

3.2.2 Medicaid Additional Criteria Covered

None Apply.

3.3 Speech Processor Upgrades

Upgrades of existing speech processors for next-generation speech processors are considered medically necessary only when:

- a. the beneficiary's response to the existing speech processor is inadequate to the point of interfering with the activities of daily living; or
- b. the speech processor is no longer functional and cannot be replaced with the same model.

Note: Upgrades to existing, functioning, replaceable speech processors to achieve aesthetic improvement are not medically necessary and will not be covered.

4.0 When the Procedure, Product, or Service Is Not Covered

Note: Refer to Subsection 2.2.1 regarding EPSDT Exception to Policy Limitations for a Medicaid Beneficiary under 21 Years of Age.

4.1 General Criteria Not Covered

Medicaid shall not cover the procedure, product, or service related to this policy when:

- a. the beneficiary does not meet the eligibility requirements listed in **Section 2.0**;
- b. the beneficiary does not meet the criteria listed in **Section 3.0**;
- c. the procedure, product, or service duplicates another provider's procedure, product, or service; or
- d. the procedure, product, or service is experimental, investigational, or part of a clinical trial.

4.2 Specific Criteria Not Covered

4.2.1 Specific Criteria Not Covered by Medicaid

Cochlear and auditory brainstem implant external parts replacement and repair are not covered when:

- a. the component or service is for a resident of a nursing facility or
- b. the component or service is covered by another agency.

4.2.2 Medicaid Additional Criteria Not Covered

None Apply.

5.0 Requirements for and Limitations on Coverage

Note: Refer to Subsection 2.2 regarding EPSDT Exception to Policy Limitations for Medicaid Beneficiaries under 21 Years of Age.

5.1 Prior Approval

Only speech processors that are not covered under warranty require prior approval.

5.2 Prior Approval Requirements

5.2.1 General

The provider(s) shall submit to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Utilization Review Contractor the following:

- a. the prior approval request;
- b. all health records and any other records that support the beneficiary has met the specific criteria in **Subsection 3.2** of this policy; and
- c. if the Medicaid beneficiary is under 21 years of age, information supporting that all EPSDT criteria are met and evidence-based literature supporting the request, if available.

5.2.2 Specific

None Apply.

Refer to **Subsection 5.4, Prior Approval for Identical Speech Processors** and **Subsection 5.5, Required Documentation** for documentation requirements for prior approval requests for speech processors.

5.3 Replacing or Repairing Cochlear and Auditory Brainstem Implant External Parts under Warranty

Replacement and repair are handled under any warranty coverage that is applicable at the time of replacement. No charge to Medicaid is allowed for replacement and repairs covered under warranty, pick-up or delivery of the item, or the assembly of Medicaid reimbursed parts.

5.4 Prior Approval for Replacement Speech Processors

Prior approval is required for all replacement speech processors that are not covered under warranty. Each prior approval request for a replacement speech processor must

include the reason for replacement (loss, theft, damaged beyond repair, original discontinued, inadequate performance, etc.).

5.4.1 Prior Approval for Identical Replacement Speech Processors—Under Warranty

When the requested replacement speech processor is identical to the existing speech processor and the existing speech processor is under warranty, prior approval is not required.

5.4.2 Prior Approval for Identical Replacement Speech Processor—Out of Warranty

When the requested replacement speech processor is identical to the existing speech processor and no longer covered under warranty, the provider shall obtain prior approval at <http://www.nctracks.nc.gov>. The provider shall submit an electronic prior approval request with a copy of the prescribing physician's original medical clearance and a letter of medical necessity from the treating licensed audiologist. Consideration will be given to the request and a decision will be returned to the provider. Beneficiaries will be notified in writing if the request is denied.

Refer to **Subsection 5.5, Required Documentation**, for additional information regarding specific requirements.

5.4.3 Prior Approval for Replacement Speech Processor—Upgrade

When the requested replacement speech processor is an upgrade, the provider shall obtain prior approval. Documentation must be included with the electronic prior approval request that substantiates that the beneficiary's response to the existing speech processor is inadequate to the point of interfering with the activities of daily living, or that the speech processor is no longer functional and cannot be replaced with the same model. Documentation from the treating licensed audiologist, supporting the medical necessity for the upgrade, must accompany the electronic prior approval request. Consideration will be given to the request and a decision will be returned to the provider. Beneficiaries will be notified in writing if the request is denied.

Refer to **Subsection 5.5, Required Documentation**, for additional information regarding specific requirements.

5.5 Required Documentation

For every cochlear and auditory brainstem external parts replacement and repair, the provider shall have the following on file from the treating licensed audiologist.

5.5.1 Physician's Medical Clearance

A physician's signed medical clearance with complete information regarding the cochlear implant system and surgery date(s) must be kept on file with the provider.

5.5.2 Audiologist's Letter

A letter signed by the treating licensed audiologist must be kept on file with the provider. This letter must include the following:

- a. Audiologist's name, business name, address, and telephone number.

- b. Beneficiary's name and Medicaid identification number.
- c. Original surgery date(s).
- d. Verification that the device is FDA approved and currently being used in a functional manner by the patient.
- e. Specific information regarding the repair and/or replacement parts, and quantity of parts, that are medically necessary for the patient.

5.6 Delivery of Service

Providers shall dispense cochlear and auditory brainstem implant external parts replacement and repairs as quickly as possible due to the medical necessity identified for an item. However, providers who deliver an item requiring prior approval before approval has been received do so at their own risk.

Refer to **Subsection 5.4, Prior Approval for Replacement Speech Processors**, for specific information regarding prior authorization for payment.

6.0 Provider(s) Eligible to Bill for the Procedure, Product, or Service

To be eligible to bill for the procedure, product, or service related to this policy, the provider(s) shall:

- a. meet Medicaid qualifications for participation;
- b. have a current and signed Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Provider Administrative Participation Agreement; and
- c. bill only for procedures, products, and services that are within the scope of their clinical practice, as defined by the appropriate licensing entity.

6.1 Provider Qualifications and Occupational Licensing Entity Regulations

Only cochlear and auditory brainstem implant **manufacturers** who meet Medicaid's qualifications for participation and are currently enrolled with the Medicaid program are eligible to bill for cochlear and auditory brainstem implant external parts replacement and repair.

6.2 Provider Certifications

None Apply.

7.0 Additional Requirements

Note: Refer to Subsection 2.2.1 regarding EPSDT Exception to Policy Limitations for a Medicaid Beneficiary under 21 Years of Age.

7.1 Compliance

Provider(s) shall comply with the following in effect at the time the service is rendered:

- a. All applicable agreements, federal, state and local laws and regulations including the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and record retention requirements; and
- b. All NC Medicaid's clinical (medical) coverage policies, guidelines, policies, provider manuals, implementation updates, and bulletins published by the Centers for

Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), DHHS, DHHS division(s) or fiscal contractor(s).

7.2 Medical Record Documentation

Providers shall keep the following documentation of their services:

- a. A copy of the physician's signed medical clearance with complete information regarding the cochlear or auditory brainstem implant system and surgery date(s).
- b. The signed letter documenting medical necessity from the treating licensed audiologist (refer to **Subsection 5.5, Required Documentation**, for specific requirements).
- c. A full description of all item(s) supplied to a beneficiary.
- d. The dates the items were supplied and to whom they were shipped.
- e. A full description of any services or repairs, including details of parts and applicable warranty information, and the date of the service or repair.

Note: All beneficiary information, including the beneficiary's Medicaid status, must be kept confidential and may be shared only with those who are authorized to receive it.

7.3 Records Retention

Records and documentation relating to the delivery of cochlear and auditory brainstem implant external parts replacement and repair must be maintained through the life of the implant, and not less than six years.

Copies of records must be furnished upon request.

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) does not prohibit the release of records to Medicaid (45 CFR 164.502).

7.4 Disclosing Ownership Information

Providers shall disclose ownership and control information, and information about the owners or employees who have been convicted of criminal offenses against Medicare, Medicaid, and the Title XX services program (10A NCAC 22N.0202).

7.5 Seeking Other Sources of Payment

The provider shall take all reasonable measures to determine the legal liabilities of third parties, including Medicare and private insurance, to pay for services. If third-party liability is established, providers shall bill the third party before billing Medicaid.

Refer to **Attachment A: Claims-Related Information, I, Medicare Crossover Claims** for specific information regarding Medicare crossover claims.

Refer to *NCTracks Provider Claims and Billing Assistance Guide*:

<https://www.nctracks.nc.gov/content/public/providers/provider-manuals.html> for additional information regarding third-party insurance.

7.6 Accepting Payment

Providers shall accept Medicaid payment according to the rules and regulations for reimbursement promulgated by the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services and the State of North Carolina and established under the NC Medicaid program. This includes accepting Medicaid payment as payment in full (10A NCAC 22J.0106).

8.0 Policy Implementation/Revision Information

Original Effective Date: November 1, 2008

Revision Information:

Date	Section Revised	Change
07/01/2008	All sections and attachment(s)	Initial promulgation of current coverage.
01/01/2010	Header	Change clinical coverage policy references for the Cochlear and ABI Repair and Replacement policy to 13A.
07/01/2010	All sections and attachment(s)	Session Law 2009-451, Section 10.31(a) Transition of NC Health Choice Program administrative oversight from the State Health Plan to the Division of Medical Assistance (DMA) in the NC Department of Health and Human Services.
03/12/2012	All sections and attachment(s)	To be equivalent where applicable to NC DMA's Clinical Coverage Policy # 13-A under Session Law 2011-145, § 10.41.(b)
03/12/2012	All sections and attachment(s)	Technical changes to merge Medicaid and NCHC current coverage into one policy.
07/01/2013	All sections and attachment(s)	Changed "HP" to "CSC." Updated websites and contact information. Updated Prior Approval instructions to match CSC technology.
10/01/2015	All Sections and Attachments	Updated policy template language and added ICD-10 codes to comply with federally mandated 10/1/2015 implementation where applicable.
03/15/2019	Table of Contents	Added, "To all beneficiaries enrolled in a Prepaid Health Plan (PHP): for questions about benefits and services available on or after November 1, 2019, please contact your PHP."
03/15/2019	All Sections and Attachments	Updated policy template language.
01/15/2020	Table of Contents	Updated policy template language, "To all beneficiaries enrolled in a Prepaid Health Plan (PHP): for questions about benefits and services available on or after implementation, please contact your PHP."
01/15/2020	Attachment A	Added, "Unless directed otherwise, Institutional Claims must be billed according to the National Uniform Billing Guidelines. All claims must comply with National Coding Guidelines".
03/15/2021	Section 1.0	Companion surgical CCP 1A-4 was corrected to include FDA criteria of 'severe' hearing loss. CCP 1A-4 now reads 'severe to profound hearing loss'. Therefore, CCP 13A, was updated to mirror the language correction made in the companion surgical policy CCP 1A-4. Section 1.0, paragraphs one and three, of this policy read ' . . . individuals with profound hearing

Date	Section Revised	Change
		impairment' and is corrected to read ' . . . individuals with severe to profound hearing loss'.
4/15/2023	All Sections and Attachment(s)	Updated policy template language due to North Carolina Health Choice Program's move to Medicaid. Policy posted 4/15/2023 with an effective date of 4/1/2023.

Attachment A: Claims-Related Information

Provider(s) shall comply with the, *NCTracks Provider Claims and Billing Assistance Guide*, Medicaid bulletins, fee schedules, NC Medicaid’s clinical coverage policies and any other relevant documents for specific coverage and reimbursement for Medicaid:

A. Claim Type

Professional (CMS-1500/837P transaction)

Unless directed otherwise, Institutional Claims must be billed according to the National Uniform Billing Guidelines. All claims must comply with National Coding Guidelines.

B. International Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, Tenth Revisions, Clinical Modification (ICD-10-CM) and Procedural Coding System (PCS)

Provider(s) shall report the ICD-10-CM and Procedural Coding System (PCS) to the highest level of specificity that supports medical necessity. Provider(s) shall use the current ICD-10 edition and any subsequent editions in effect at the time of service. Provider(s) shall refer to the applicable edition for code description, as it is no longer documented in the policy.

C. Code(s)

Provider(s) shall report the most specific billing code that accurately and completely describes the procedure, product or service provided. Provider(s) shall use the Current Procedural Terminology (CPT), Health Care Procedure Coding System (HCPCS), and UB-04 Data Specifications Manual (for a complete listing of valid revenue codes) and any subsequent editions in effect at the time of service. Provider(s) shall refer to the applicable edition for the code description, as it is no longer documented in the policy.

If no such specific CPT or HCPCS code exists, then the provider(s) shall report the procedure, product or service using the appropriate unlisted procedure or service code.

HCPCS Code	Use When Billing For The Following Service(s)	Lifetime Expectancy
L8615	Replacement cochlear implant device headset or headpiece	Once every 3 years
L8616	Replacement cochlear implant device microphone	Once annually
L8617	Replacement cochlear implant device transmitting coil	Once annually
L8618	Replacement cochlear implant device transmitter cable	8 times each year
L8619	Replacement cochlear implant external speech processor	Once every 5 years
L8621	Replacement cochlear implant device zinc air battery, each	N/A
L8622	Replacement cochlear implant device alkaline battery, each	N/A
L8623	Replacement cochlear implant device speech processor (not ear level) lithium ion battery, each	1 set of 3 each year
L8624	Replacement cochlear implant device speech processor (ear level) lithium ion battery, each	1 set of 4 each year
L7510	Repair or replace minor parts of prosthetic device	As necessary; requires invoice

Refer to **Attachment B, Instructions for Completing Claims**, for additional information regarding HCPCS code L7510.

Unlisted Procedure or Service

CPT: The provider(s) shall refer to and comply with the Instructions for Use of the CPT Codebook, Unlisted Procedure or Service, and Special Report as documented in the current CPT in effect at the time of service.

HCPCS: The provider(s) shall refer to and comply with the Instructions For Use of HCPCS National Level II codes, Unlisted Procedure or Service and Special Report as documented in the current HCPCS edition in effect at the time of service.

D. Modifiers

Provider(s) shall follow applicable modifier guidelines.

E. Billing Units

Provider(s) shall report the appropriate code(s) used which determines the billing unit(s).

Medicaid pays for services in specific units that measure the amount of service provided to the beneficiary.

For cochlear and auditory brainstem implant external parts replacement and repair, the units of service are as follows:

1. Purchased Equipment: The unit of service is 1 for each item provided.
2. Service and Repair: The unit of service is 1 for each service or repair.

Refer to **Attachment B, Instructions for Completing Claims**, for additional information regarding unit requirements.

F. Place of Service

Beneficiary's home.

G. Co-payments

For Medicaid refer to Medicaid State Plan:

<https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/meetings-notices/medicaid-state-plan-public-notices>

H. Reimbursement

Provider(s) shall bill their usual and customary charges.

For a schedule of rates, refer to: <https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/>.

I. Medicare Crossover Claims

Effective with **date of service September 6, 2004**, claims filed to **Medicare cross over automatically** to Medicaid for payment if a Medicare Crossover Request form is on file with Medicaid for that provider and Medicare and Medicaid have matching data for the beneficiary. It is the provider's responsibility to check the Medicaid Remittance and Status Report to verify that the claim crosses over from Medicare. Providers may verify that their Medicare provider number is cross-referenced to their Medicaid provider number by contacting CSC Provider Services at 1-

800-688-6696 or 919-851-8888. If the Medicare provider number is not cross-referenced to the Medicaid provider number, the provider shall complete the Medicare Crossover Request form (available from NC Medicaid's Web site at <https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/>) and submit it by fax or mail to the fax number or address listed on the form. Claims will be paid to the Medicaid provider number indicated on the claim filed to Medicare. If no Medicaid provider number is on the claim filed to Medicare, claims will be paid to the Medicaid provider number indicated on the Medicare Crossover Request form.

Note: When a provider has more than one Medicaid provider number, the provider number that is to receive payment must be indicated on the Medicare claim form. Refer to the August 2004 Special Bulletin V, *Medicare Part B Billing*, for details regarding crossover claims for beneficiaries with both Medicaid and Medicare eligibility.

J. Payment Rates

Payment is calculated based on the lower of the provider's billed charge or the maximum amount allowed by Medicaid.

Attachment B: Instructions for Completing Claims

Refer to the following information for completing an electronic 857 or CMS-1500 claim form for DME/cochlear and auditory brainstem implant external parts replacement and repair.

A. Billing Instructions Specific to Cochlear and Auditory Brainstem Implant External Parts Replacement and Repair

There are several fields or lines for listing services. Each field or line is called a “detail.” When completing these blocks, observe the following conventions:

1. Use one line for each HCPCS code billed on a given date.
2. If more than one unit of the same item is provided on one day, include all the items on the same line. For example, for 60 batteries provided on May 1, include 60 on one line. Enter 60 units in 24G for that date of service.
3. If multiple miscellaneous items are provided on the same day, enter L7510 on one line, enter one unit, and enter the total invoice cost of all the items. Do not bill each miscellaneous item separately.
4. Claims for L7510 do not require prior approval but must include an invoice with the manufacturer’s item number for each miscellaneous item being billed.
5. Include only those dates of service on which the beneficiary is eligible for Medicaid.

B. Instructions for Submitting Attachments Specific to Cochlear and Auditory Brainstem Implant

External Parts Replacement and Repair Claims

Required attachments for claims must be submitted in one of the following ways:

- Via the web at <http://www.nctracks.nc.gov>
- Fax to (919) 859-9703

Attachment C: Instructions for Prior Approval Request for Replacement Speech Processors

Prior approval requests for replacement speech processors must be submitted electronically and must include required documentation.

A. Electronic Submission of Prior Approval Requests for Replacement Speech Processors

Prior approval requests for replacement speech processors must be submitted electronically at <http://www.nctracks.nc.gov>.

B. Submission of Required Additional Documentation

Providers shall submit required documentation as attachments through either:

- The web, at <http://www.nctracks.nc.gov>
- Fax to (919) 233-6845, ATTN: AI Parts

Refer to **Subsection 5.4, Prior Approval for Replacement Speech Processors**, for specific information regarding required documentation.