



BlueCross BlueShield
of Illinois

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois Provider Manual

HMO Scope of Benefits Section

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois, a Division of Health Care Service Corporation, a Mutual Legal Reserve Company,
an Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

Hearing Aids

Benefit

Hearing aids are in benefit as noted below. A “hearing aid” is defined as a hearing instrument that is any wearable non-disposable instrument or device designed to aid or compensate for impaired human hearing and any parts, attachments, or accessories for the instrument or device, including an ear mold. "Related services" means those services necessary to assess, select, and adjust or fit the hearing instrument to ensure optimal performance, including, but not limited to audiological exams, replacement ear molds, and repairs to the hearing instrument.

The IPA may refer the member to a supplier of its choice. The HMO members have a discount available through the TruHearing Program. The discount can be utilized in conjunction with their medical coverage. TruHearing's contact number is 866-687-2020.

Bone Anchored Hearing Aids (BAHA) will be considered an exception to hearing benefits. The BAHA codes (L8690 and L8691) are usually billed as part of a facility claim but can be billed as a professional claim as well. Being that these are considered prosthetic codes, the IPA will need to contact the CAU for an exception (prospectively) to use a non-contracted provider if the BAHA will be billed as a professional claim. If the claim will be billed as part of a surgical facility claim that is the HMO's financial risk, no exception will be needed. Please note, these are being considered in benefit as an exception to hearing benefits, therefore, all HMO members have this benefit, if the PCP has determined medical necessity.

Pediatric Hearing aid benefits:

- Blue Precision HMOSM, BlueCare DirectSM and Blue FocusCareSM members are covered up to the age of 19.
- HMO Illinois[®] and Blue Advantage HMOSM members are covered up to the age of 18.
 - The following is in benefit for all employer groups:
 - One hearing aid/instrument per ear every 24 months, to include parts, attachments, or accessories, including an ear mold, (24-month period is effective 1-1-2020, previously was 36 months)
 - Related services such as audiological exams and selections, fitting and adjustment of ear molds.
 - Hearing instrument repairs

Adult Hearing aid benefits:

- Blue Precision HMO, BlueCare Direct and Blue FocusCare members 19 and over have benefits as listed below.
- HMO Illinois and Blue Advantage HMO members 18 and over have benefits as listed below.
 - The following is in benefit for all employer groups:
 - One hearing aid/instrument for each ear up to \$2500.00 every 24 months, to include parts, attachments, or accessories, including ear mold,
 - Related services such as audiological exams and selections, fitting and adjustment of ear molds.
 - Hearing instrument repairs

Paid by	Member with benefits for hearing aid:	
	Professional fees	IPA
	Hearing aid	HMO
	BAHA device	HMO
	Inpatient and/or Outpatient Surgical Facility Charges	HMO

Paid by	Inpatient and/or Outpatient Surgical:	
	Facility Charges (related to BAHA device)	HMO

Note: See related benefits interpretation on Hearing Screening