



## Clinical Review Criteria Related to Cochlear Implants and BAHA (Bone Anchored Hearing Aid)

### I. Criteria for Approval

- A. All members should be free from middle ear infections, lesions to auditory nerve and acoustic areas of central nervous system, and have no contraindications to surgery.
- B. The device must be used with FDA-approved labeling.
- C. Due to an increased risk for meningitis, HNE encourages members with cochlear implants to discuss with their physician(s) the benefits of receiving the conjugate pneumococcal vaccination.

#### 1. COCHLEAR IMPLANTS

##### a. Children:

- Age 12 months up to age 18 years.
- Child has profound, bilateral sensorineural hearing loss (>90 dB HL) at 500, 1000, and 2000 Hz. Note: In the young child, auditory brainstem response, stapedial reflex testing and/or acoustical emission testing may be useful combined with auditory behavioral responses to determine hearing status.
- Child has limited benefit from appropriately fitted bilateral hearing aids.
- Completion of 3- to 6-month hearing aid trial if there is no previous experience with hearing aids (possible waiver of this requirement when there is radiological evidence of cochlear ossification).

##### b. Adults:

- Age 18 years and older.
- Severe-to-profound sensorineural hearing loss determined by a pure tone average of 70 dB or greater at 500, 1000, and 2000 Hz.

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- Limited benefit from fitted bilateral hearing aids. Defined by test scores of 40% correct or less in best-aided listening condition on open-set sentence cognition.

## 2. BAHA

- Considered medically necessary for children over age 5 with a unilateral or bilateral conductive hearing loss or a mixed conductive/sensorineural hearing loss.
- Condition prevents use of a conventional hearing aid.
- For both unilateral and bilateral implants, hearing threshold less than or equal to 45 dB.
- Diagnosis of malformations of the external ear canal, dermatitis of external ear, severe chronic external otitis or otitis media, tumors of the external ear canal or tympanic cavity, or other conditions in which an air conduction hearing aid is contraindicated.

## 3. AUDITORY BRAINSTEM IMPANT (ABI) is covered for ages 12 years or older when all following criteria are met:

- Diagnosis of neurofibromatosis type 2.
- Individual undergoing bilateral removal of tumors of auditory nerves and it is anticipated that the individual will become completely deaf or had bilateral auditory nerves removed and is now bilaterally deaf.

## II. What is Not Covered

- Non-implantable intraoral bone conduction hearing aids are considered investigational.
- Cochlear hybrid implants are unproven and are not medically necessary for hearing loss.

### ICD Codes

Q85.01	Neurofibromatosis
H93.3	Disorders of acoustic nerve
H90.0	Conductive hearing loss
H90.4	Sensorineural hearing loss
H90.6	Mixed conductive and sensorineural hearing loss
H91.3	Deaf mutism
E76.1	Hunter syndrome

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## **HCPC Codes**

L8614 Cochlear Device/System  
L8619 Cochlear implant external speech processor, replacement  
L7500 Repair of prosthetic device, hourly rate (excludes V5335 repair of oral laryngeal prosthesis or artificial larynx)  
L7510 Repair of prosthetic device, repair or replace minor parts  
L8699 Auditory osseointegrated device (BAHA)  
L8614 Auditory brainstem device

## **CPT Codes**

69930, 92601-92604, 92506-92507  
69714-69718

## **References:**

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