



State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
Department of Health Care Services



ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
Governor

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Index: Benefits

TO: ALL COUNTY CALIFORNIA CHILDREN'S SERVICES (CCS) OFFICES,
STATE CHILDREN'S MEDICAL SERVICES (CMS) BRANCH AND
REGIONAL OFFICE STAFF

SUBJECT: HEARING AID SUPPLIES AND MAINTENANCE

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Numbered Letter (NL) is to update and clarify CCS policy regarding hearing aid batteries, accessories, earmolds, and repair/modifications for CCS clients. It supplements the information contained in the NL 30-1205.

BACKGROUND

In June 2005, the County CCS programs and CMS Regional Offices were delegated authority to review and authorize hearing aids and Assistive Listening Devices for children who are beneficiaries under Medi-Cal, CCS or Healthy Families. The maintenance of hearing aids and FM systems includes the provision of batteries, accessories, earmolds, and repairs. When CCS beneficiaries are provided hearing aid services at CCS-approved Communication Disorder Centers (CDCs), authorizations for diagnosis and treatments are issued in a Service Code Group (SCG) 04. Previously, the SCG 04 did not include batteries (Z5822), accessories (V5267), or repairs (V5014), though these are all benefits for hearing aid recipients. Recently these codes were added to the SCG 04; policy is necessary to instruct the counties regarding frequency limitations and correct billing for these codes.

POLICY

When authorizing hearing aid batteries, accessories, repairs/modifications, and ear molds to the CDCs, it is no longer necessary to issue a separate authorization to the CDC. Separate authorizations are still necessary for hearing aids and services provided by a hearing aid dispenser in conjunction with a CDC. When authorizing the services for a hearing aid dispenser, the codes for hearing aid supplies and maintenance should be included with the authorization for the hearing aid.

Batteries, earmolds, repairs, and accessories should no longer be authorized or distributed on a quarterly basis. Annual frequency limitations for each code can be found in Table 1 of this letter. Repairs and modifications using the V5014-RP (included in the SCG 04) are limited to \$25.00/unit and more extensive repairs will require a separate authorization. Similarly, hearing aid accessories are limited to \$50.00/unit, though multiple units can be applied when purchasing hearing aid accessory kits.

IMPLEMENTATION

- A. A SCG 04 must be authorized to a CDC for a child receiving hearing aids. The authorization for service by the CDC should automatically be renewed annually at the child's new eligibility period.
- B. CDCs requesting hearing aid services through a hearing aid dispenser may also request the hearing aid supplies and maintenance codes included in this NL. The frequency limits in Table 1 should be applied to the units of the SAR for the hearing aid dispenser.
- C. Providers should be instructed that claims for the supplies and maintenance must be billed, using appropriate modifiers, by one of the following provider types:
 - A hospital outpatient provider number
 - An audiologist's individual Medi-Cal/NPI provider number
 - A hearing aid dispenser's individual Medi-Cal/NPI provider number.
- D. Claims for hearing aid batteries must include a manufacturer's invoice with information available to calculate the cost of each battery.

If you have questions regarding these policy changes, please contact Lisa Satterfield, M.S., Audiology Consultant, at (916) 323-8100.

Thank you for your services to California's children.

Marian Dalsey, M.D., M.P.H., Chief
Children's Medical Services Branch

Enclosure

Table 1
Annual Frequency Limitations for Hearing Aid Supplies/Maintenance
 (Limitations apply per hearing aid)

Code	Modifier	Description	Units	Special Instructions
Z5822	-NU	EPSDT-SS Hearing Aid Batteries	96	Include manufacturer's invoice with claim; bill number of battery cells dispensed, up to 96 cells/hearing aid.
V5264	-NU	Ear mold/insert	8	Reimbursement is \$27.52.
V5267	-NU	Hearing aid supply/accessory	5	Each unit is \$50. Hearing aid accessory kits can be purchased using multiple units, not to exceed the 5 units/hearing aid/year. Additional accessories will require a separate SAR.
V5014	-RP	Repair/modification of a hearing aid	8	For use of minor repairs. Each unit is \$25. A separate authorization should be requested for more extensive repairs.