

Cochlear Implants

A cochlear implant device is an electronic instrument, part of which is implanted surgically into the cochlea to stimulate auditory nerve fibers and part of which is capable of detecting and codifying sound for neural stimulation and is worn or carried by the individual. The goal is to enable an awareness of sound, identification of sounds and facilitation of auditory/oral communication for individuals with severe to profound sensorineural hearing loss. After surgery these devices require activation, fitting of external components, programming and rehabilitation for proper function and benefit.

Coverage and Payment Policy

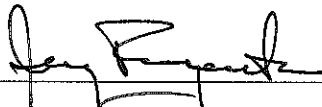
Prior Authorization is required.

1. The beneficiary has the confirmed diagnosis of bilateral profound (>90 dB HL) sensorineural hearing loss.
2. There has been limited benefit from at least a 3 month hearing aid trial. This requirement may be waived when there is radiologic evidence of an ongoing cochlear ossification or obstruction.
3. Attestation that the beneficiary is free of middle ear infection, has an accessible cochlear lumen which will allow for implantation and is free of lesions of the central auditory pathway from the brainstem and higher.
4. The requesting clinician must document that the beneficiary has realistic expectations for performance of the device and is able to participate in the required postoperative therapy, training and rehabilitation.

Criteria for Non-coverage:

1. Deafness due to lesions of the central auditory pathway.
2. Otitis media or other active, unresolved ear problems.
3. Radiographic evidence of absent cochlear development.
4. Upgrades for aesthetic reasons.

Approved: _____ Associate Medical Director


Jerry Fingerut MD

Date: 8 March, 2017

Reviewed: _____

Revised: _____