4.213 Audiology Services (12/2/2016, GCR 16-076)

4.213.1 Definitions

For the purposes of this rule, the term:

(a) “Audiology services” means services related to the diagnosis, screening, prevention and correction of hearing and hearing disorders.

(b) “Hearing aids” means wearable instruments or devices to compensate for impaired hearing.

4.213.2 Covered Services

(a) Audiology services approved for coverage are limited to:

   (1) Audiologic examinations,
   (2) Hearing screening,
   (3) Hearing assessments, and
   (4) Diagnostic tests for hearing loss.

(b) Covered services for hearing aids include:

   (1) Analog or digital hearing aids, plus their repair, replacement, or modification,
   (2) Prescriptions for hearing aid batteries, limited to six batteries per month,
   (3) Fitting, orientation, and/or checking of hearing aids, and
   (4) Ear molds specific to hearing aids.

4.213.3 Conditions for Coverage

(a) Audiology services must be provided by a physician, or licensed audiologist working within the scope of his or her practice and enrolled with Vermont Medicaid.

(b) Hearing aids are covered only for beneficiaries who have at least one of the following conditions or if otherwise medically necessary for children under the age of 21.

   (1) Hearing loss in the better ear is greater than 30dB, based on an average taken at 500, 1000, and 2000Hz.
   (2) Unilateral hearing loss is greater than 30dB, based on an average taken at 500, 1000, and 2000Hz.
   (3) Hearing loss in the better ear is greater than 40dB, based on an average taken at 2000, 3000, and 4000Hz, or word recognition is poorer than 72%.

(c) Hearing aid repairs may not exceed 50% of the replacement cost.
4.213.4 Prior Authorization Requirements

(a) Prior authorization is required for:

(1) More than one analog or digital hearing aid per ear every three years.

(2) More than one hearing aid repair or modification per year, or any repair or modification in excess of $100.

4.213.5 Non-Covered Services

(a) Non-medical items, such as canal aids, maintenance items other than batteries, and fees associated with selection trial periods or loaners, are not covered.