Medical Policy
Semi-Implantable and Fully Implantable Middle Ear Hearing Aid

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Policy Number: 480
BCBSA Reference Number: 7.01.84

Related Policies
- Implantable Bone-Conduction and Bone-Anchored Hearing Aids, #479
- Auditory Brainstem Implant, #481

Policy
Commercial Members: Managed Care (HMO and POS), PPO, and Indemnity
Medicare HMO BlueSM and Medicare PPO BlueSM Members

Semi-implantable and fully implantable middle ear hearing aids are INVESTIGATIONAL.

Prior Authorization Information
Commercial Members: Managed Care (HMO and POS)
This is NOT a covered service.

Commercial Members: PPO, and Indemnity
This is NOT a covered service.

Medicare Members: HMO BlueSM
This is NOT a covered service.

Medicare Members: PPO BlueSM
This is NOT a covered service.

CPT Codes / HCPCS Codes / ICD-9 Codes
The following codes are included below for informational purposes. Inclusion or exclusion of a code does not constitute or imply member coverage or provider reimbursement. Please refer to the member’s contract benefits in effect at the time of service to determine coverage or non-coverage as it applies to an individual member.
Providers should report all services using the most up-to-date industry-standard procedure, revenue, and diagnosis codes, including modifiers where applicable.

CPT Codes
There is no specific CPT code for this service.

HCPCS Codes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HCPCS codes:</th>
<th>Code Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>S2230</td>
<td>Implantation of magnetic component of semi-implantable hearing device on ossicles in middle ear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V5095</td>
<td>Semi-implantable middle ear hearing prosthesis</td>
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ICD-9 Diagnosis Codes
Investigational for all diagnoses.

Description
Patients with moderate to severe sensorineural hearing loss are typically fitted with external acoustic hearing aids. Semi-implantable and fully implantable middle ear hearing aids have been developed as an alternative to external acoustic hearing aids. However, these hearing aids may not be acceptable to patients, either due to issues related to anatomic fit, sound quality, or personal preference.

Examples of semi-implantable devices for use in adults, 18 years of age or older, who have a moderate to severe sensorineural hearing loss and desire an alternative to an acoustic hearing aid include the Vibrant® Soundbridge™ and the Soundtec® Direct System™, device/test/procedure names. All semi-implantable devices are considered investigational regardless of the commercial name, the manufacturer or FDA approval status.

Examples of fully-implantable devices to alleviate hearing loss in adults 18 years of age or older with stable bilateral sensorineural hearing loss include the Esteem® Implantable Hearing System from Envoy Medical Corporation. All semi-implantable devices are considered investigational regardless of the commercial name, the manufacturer or FDA approval status.

Summary
The limited data suggest semi-implantable middle ear hearing aids may provide marginal improvement in hearing compared to conventional external acoustic hearing aids. However, given the safety and effectiveness of external acoustic hearing aids and the increased risks inherent in a surgical procedure, the semi-implantable device must be associated with clinically significant improvement in various hearing parameters compared to external hearing aids. While safety concerns appear to be minimal, only a limited number of patients have been included in the clinical trials, and few have completed more than 1 year of follow-up. Given the small number of patients and the limited safety data, risks cannot be adequately evaluated and compared with the marginal improvement in hearing. Due to the lack of adequate safety data in broader patient populations over a longer period of time, semi-implantable middle ear hearing aids remain investigational. The impact on net health outcome cannot be determined.

The available evidence for use of fully implantable middle ear hearing aids is preliminary and thus insufficient to demonstrate long-term improvement in net health outcome. Concerns exist about adverse events with these devices. Therefore, fully implantable middle ear hearing aids are considered investigational.

Policy History

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Action</th>
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<tr>
<td>5/2013</td>
<td>New references from BCBSA National medical policy.</td>
</tr>
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Information Pertaining to All Blue Cross Blue Shield Medical Policies
Click on any of the following terms to access the relevant information:
Medical Policy Terms of Use
Managed Care Guidelines
Indemnity/PPO Guidelines
Clinical Exception Process
Medical Technology Assessment Guidelines

References