



**Coverage of any medical intervention discussed in a WellFirst Health medical policy is subject to the limitations and exclusions outlined in the member's benefit certificate or policy and to applicable state and/or federal laws.**

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## Hearing Aids

**MP9445**

**Covered Service:** Yes

### **Prior Authorization**

**Required:** Prior authorization is **not** required.

**Additional Information:** None

### **WellFirst Health Medical Policy:**

- 1.0 Air conduction hearing aid devices are defined as the following: behind the ear (BTE); in the ear (ITE) device; in the ear canal (ITC) device; completely in the canal (CIC) device; and contralateral routing of sound (CROS) device for single sided hearing loss.
- 2.0 Air conduction binaural and monoaural hearing aids **do not require** prior authorization and are considered medically necessary when **ANY** of the following criteria are met in either or both ear(s):
  - 2.1 Hearing thresholds 40 decibels (dB) HL or greater at 500, 1000, 2000, 3000 or 4000 hertz (Hz); **OR**
  - 2.2 Hearing thresholds 26 dB HL or greater at three of these frequencies; **OR**
  - 2.3 Speech recognition less than 94 percent.
- 3.0 Hearing exams are required and must be performed by a licensed audiologist to evaluate and determine if correction is needed. An initial exam does not require prior authorization but must meet **ALL** of the following criteria:
  - 3.1 Evaluation by an in-plan audiologist is required; **AND**
  - 3.2 Documentation of an audiogram, needs assessment and medical clearance must be within the past six (6) months.
- 4.0 Infants and children through the age 18 who are certified as deaf or hearing impaired by a physician or audiologist are eligible for bilateral (both ears) hearing aids.
- 5.0 The following hearing devices are not medically necessary:
  - 5.1 A fully implantable middle ear hearing aid
  - 5.2 Non-implantable, intraoral bone conduction hearing aid.
- 6.0 Hearing Aids that can be purchased without a medical evaluation or over the counter are considered not medically necessary.



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- 7.0 Batteries for hearing aids after the one supplied with the initial aid are not medically necessary.
- 8.0 All other indications not listed above are considered experimental and investigational, and therefore are not medically necessary.
- 9.0 Please refer to medical policy [Bone Anchored Hearing Aid MP9018](#) for additional information.

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