



State of New Jersey  
Department of Human Services  
Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services

# NEWSLETTER

Volume 5 No. 63

November 1995

**TO:** Physicians and Hearing Aid Dispensers

**SUBJECT:** Change in the Medicaid Policy Regarding Examination Requirements for Hearing Aids

**EFFECTIVE:** For services provided on or after August 21, 1995

**BACKGROUND:** Under prior policy, the Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services (DMAHS) required an otologic examination, an audiology examination, and a hearing aid examination to be performed on all Medicaid beneficiaries prior to prescribing a hearing aid device, regardless of the beneficiary's age. Details regarding the nature of these examinations were described under N.J.A.C. 10:64-1.3 of the Hearing Aid Services Manual. This policy applied to hearing aid services provided to Medicaid beneficiaries in the community and in nursing facilities.

Based on the adoption which appeared at 27 N.J.R. 3227(a) on August 21, 1995, the Division changed its current policy regarding these examination requirements for hearing aid devices.

**ACTION:** For hearing aid services provided on or after August 21, 1995, an otologic examination and a hearing aid examination shall continue to be required for all Medicaid beneficiaries prior to prescribing a hearing aid device, regardless of the beneficiary's age.

Medicaid-eligible beneficiaries under 21 years of age shall be required to have an audiological examination completed prior to the prescribing a hearing aid. For Medicaid-eligible beneficiaries 21 years of age or older, the physician performing the otologic examination of the Medicaid-eligible beneficiary shall determine if an audiologic examination is medically necessary. If the physician determines that an audiological examination is medically necessary, it must be completed prior to the hearing aid examination. The Medicaid program will continue to reimburse for audiological examinations rendered by approved providers.

It is important to note that this change in examination requirements has no impact on current hearing aid screening requirements for a Medicaid beneficiary residing in a nursing facility.

If you have any questions regarding the Newsletter, please contact the Chief, Pharmaceutical Services, Office of Health Service Administration, Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services, at (609) 588-2724.

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