

Bulletin Number: MSA 19-34

Distribution: Practitioners, Local Health Departments, Federally Qualified Health Centers, Rural Health Clinics, Medicaid Health Plans, Tribal Health Centers, Hearing Aid Dealers, Hearing Centers, Nursing Facilities, Outpatient Hospitals, Durable Medical Equipment Providers

Issued: November 26, 2019

Subject: Updates to Disposable Hearing Aid Battery Coverage

Effective: January 1, 2020

Programs Affected: Medicaid, Healthy Michigan Plan, MICHild, and Children's Special Health Care Services (CSHCS)

This policy applies to Medicaid Fee-for-Service (FFS). Medicaid Health Plans (MHP) and Integrated Care Organizations (ICO) must provide the full range of covered services described in this policy at a minimum and may choose to provide services over and above those specified. For beneficiaries enrolled in an MHP or ICO, the provider must check with the beneficiary's MHP for coverage parameters and prior authorization requirements.

This bulletin updates the coverage of disposable hearing aid batteries. To provide greater access to hearing aid batteries, benefit limitations have been altered and the allowable dispensing provider types have been expanded.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) covers the replacement of disposable hearing aid batteries up to a quantity of 36 batteries per hearing aid per date of service. A maximum of 72 batteries per hearing aid per year are covered. Effective for dates of service on and after January 1, 2020, beneficiaries will no longer be restricted to a six-month dispensing schedule. Prior authorization is required for quantities exceeding the standards of coverage. Documentation must accompany the MSA-1653-B – Special Services Prior Approval – Request/Authorization form to substantiate the need for additional batteries.

Effective for dates of service on and after January 1, 2020, hearing aid batteries prescribed/ordered by a Medicaid enrolled physician or qualified non-physician medical practitioner (e.g., Physician Assistant, Nurse Practitioner, Clinical Nurse Specialist) may be dispensed by any of the following properly credentialed Medicaid enrolled providers:

- Hearing Aid Dealer
- Audiologist
- Hearing Center
- Medical Supplier

All other current policy standards remain unchanged.

Manual Maintenance

Retain this bulletin until the information is incorporated into the Michigan Medicaid Provider Manual.

Questions

Any questions regarding this bulletin should be directed to Provider Inquiry, Department of Health and Human Services, P.O. Box 30731, Lansing, Michigan 48909-8231, or e-mailed to ProviderSupport@michigan.gov. When you submit an e-mail, be sure to include your name, affiliation, NPI number, and phone number so you may be contacted if necessary. Providers may phone toll-free 1-800-292-2550.

Approved



Kate Massey, Director
Medical Services Administration