



## **UIC** SPECIALIZED CARE FOR CHILDREN



# *Audiology Services*

## Covered Services

**Care Coordination:** Care coordination services are provided by the University of Illinois at Chicago - Division of Specialized Care for Children staff located in offices across the state. Services include information and referrals; coordination of medical, educational, and community services; working with insurance.

**Diagnostic Services:** Diagnostic services include support of audiological (hearing) testing and medical evaluations by Specialized Care for Children approved providers. The hearing testing supported includes tests needed to determine medical eligibility [hearing loss of 30 decibels (dB) or greater in any two of the following frequencies: 500, 1000, 2000, 4000, and 8000 Hertz (Hz) or hearing loss of 35 dB or greater at any one of the following frequencies: 500, 1000, and 2000 Hz for one or both ears.] Hearing testing may include behavioral and pure tone audiometry, immittance and/or electro-physiological testing (e.g., Auditory Brainstem Response).

**Treatment Services:** Treatment services supported by Specialized Care for Children for children with hearing loss include treatment, including examinations by an approved otolaryngologist to develop a medical treatment plan; hearing testing by an approved audiologist; hearing aids, fittings, follow-up, repairs, and hearing aid supplies; and surgery, including cochlear implant surgery.

For children with a cochlear implant, a hearing aid for the non-implanted ear may be covered when recommended by the child's cochlear implant team. Bilateral cochlear implants may be supported.

## Referral Process

Children can be referred by anyone with the parent's permission. Referrals should be made to Specialized Care for Children by calling (800) 322-3722. Caller will be directed to the office nearest the family.

## Eligibility

**Care Coordination:** Children with medically eligible conditions receive care coordination services regardless of income.

**Diagnostic Services:** Regardless of financial eligibility, initial evaluation services are provided to the extent medically necessary to determine if the child has a medically eligible condition. Any public or private insurance available to the child is to be used and maximized first. Services are available to an applicant who is under 21 years of age and is a resident of Illinois. Children eligible for diagnostic services to confirm a hearing loss must have failed a hearing screening (newborn, pre-school or school age) or be demonstrating behaviors of a hearing loss. Specialized Care for Children does not pay for hearing screenings or monitoring of children "at risk" for a hearing loss.

**Eligibility:** To be eligible for treatment services, children must meet all eligibility requirements. These include being under 21 years of age, a resident of Illinois, having total family income, considering family size, below 285% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) (if uninsured and income below 300% FPL, the family may be required to apply for All Kids or Medicaid), and meeting medical eligibility.

A child with a cholesteatoma with or without a hearing loss may be medically eligible.

## Services/Payment Rates

Audiologic and otologic diagnostic and treatment services are paid by CPT codes with the rate set by the agency. There are no restrictions to ICD-9 codes or CPT codes used for billing. Hearing aids and related supplies are paid up to the established division maximum. Providers interested in knowing the maximum allowable for hearing aids can call (800) 322-3722. A dispensing fee is not paid. Payment is made only for services approved prior to the date of service by the child's care coordinator.

The only exception to this is for infants receiving diagnostic services as the result of failed newborn hearing screening shortly after birth. In this case, payment is made when a Newborn Hearing Screening Program Diagnostic Evaluation form is received from a Specialized Care for Children approved audiologist or otolaryngologist within 30 days of each service.

### ***Hearing instruments through Specialized Care for Children:***

- Most cost effective hearing aid that meets the child's medical needs is supported.
- Fees for earmolds should include earmold impressions.
- All aids purchased must have a 2-year repair and 2-year loss and damage warranty. If the hearing aid comes standard with a 1-year warranty, the audiologist should include the cost of the second year warranty in the usual and customary charge for the hearing aid when billing. The inclusion of this fee is subject to the maximum reimbursement limits.

The care coordinator monitors the use of resources toward an overall division cap and works with the family in the use of available dollars.

## Reimbursement/Insurance

Insurance must be maximized first. If the child is eligible for All Kids or Medicaid, that program pays for services.

## For More Information Contact

Program Support Unit - (217) 558-2350 (Voice) (800) 322-3722 (Toll Free) (217) 785-4728 (TTY)

**Visit our Web Page at: [dsc.uic.edu](http://dsc.uic.edu)**

