

Cochlear Implants (for Kansas Only)

Policy Number: CS019KS.03
Effective Date: June 1, 2026

[➔ Instructions for Use](#)

Table of Contents	Page
Application	1
Coverage Rationale	1
Medical Records Documentation Used for Reviews	2
Definitions	2
Applicable Codes	2
Benefit Considerations	2
U.S. Food and Drug Administration	2
References	3
Policy History/Revision Information	3
Instructions for Use	3

- Related Policies**

 - [Durable Medical Equipment, Orthotics, Medical Supplies, and Repairs/Replacements \(for Kansas Only\)](#)
 - [Hearing Aids and Devices Including Wearable, Bone-Anchored, and Semi-Implantable \(for Kansas Only\)](#)

Application

This Medical Policy only applies to the state of Kansas.

Coverage Rationale

[➔ See Benefit Considerations](#)

Non-hybrid cochlear implantation is proven and medically necessary under certain circumstances for bilateral sensorineural and/or for single sided or asymmetric [Sensorineural Hearing Loss](#) in adults ages 18 and older. For medical necessity clinical coverage criteria, refer to the InterQual® CP: Procedures, Cochlear Implantation.

[Click here to view the InterQual® criteria.](#)

Non-hybrid cochlear implantation is proven and medically necessary under certain circumstances for bilateral Sensorineural Hearing Loss in children ages 6 months or older and for single-sided or asymmetric Sensorineural Hearing Loss in children ages 9 months or older. For medical necessity clinical coverage criteria, refer to the InterQual® CP: Procedures, Cochlear Implantation (Pediatric).

[Click here to view the InterQual® criteria.](#)

Non-hybrid cochlear implantation for bilateral Sensorineural Hearing Loss in children younger than 6 months and for single-sided or asymmetric Sensorineural Hearing Loss in children younger than 9 months is experimental or investigational due to lack of Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval.

Hybrid cochlear implantation is proven and medically necessary under certain circumstances for Sensorineural Hearing Loss in adults ages 18 and older. For medical necessity clinical coverage criteria, refer to the InterQual® CP: Procedures, Cochlear Implantation.

[Click here to view the InterQual® criteria.](#)

For Coverage Limitations and Exclusions

For information on cochlear implants and cochlear external speech processor replacement, refer to the [Kansas Medical Assistance Program: Professional Audiology Fee-For-Service Provider Manual](#).

Medical Records Documentation Used for Reviews

Benefit coverage for health services is determined by the federal, state, or contractual requirements, and applicable laws that may require coverage for a specific service. Medical records documentation may be required to assess whether the member meets the clinical criteria for coverage but does not guarantee coverage of the services requested.

The patient's medical record must contain documentation that fully supports the medical necessity for the requested services. This documentation includes, but is not limited to, relevant medical history, physical examination, and results of pertinent diagnostic tests or procedures. Documentation supporting the medical necessity should be legible, maintained in the patient's medical record, and must be made available upon request.

Definitions

Sensorineural Hearing Loss (SNHL): Occurs when there is damage to the inner ear (cochlea), or to the nerve pathways from the inner ear to the brain. Most of the time, SNHL cannot be medically or surgically corrected. This is the most common type of permanent hearing loss. [American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA)].

Applicable Codes

The following list(s) of procedure and/or diagnosis codes is provided for reference purposes only and may not be all inclusive. Listing of a code in this policy does not imply that the service described by the code is a covered or non-covered health service. Benefit coverage for health services is determined by federal, state, or contractual requirements and applicable laws that may require coverage for a specific service. The inclusion of a code does not imply any right to reimbursement or guarantee claim payment. Other policies and guidelines may apply.

CPT Code	Description
69930	Cochlear device implantation, with or without mastoidectomy

CPT® is a registered trademark of the American Medical Association

HCPCS Code	Description
L8614	Cochlear device, includes all internal and external components
L8615	Headset/headpiece for use with cochlear implant device, replacement
L8616	Microphone for use with cochlear implant device, replacement
L8617	Transmitting coil for use with cochlear implant device, replacement
L8618	Transmitter cable for use with cochlear implant device or auditory osseointegrated device, replacement
L8619	Cochlear implant external speech processor and controller, integrated system, replacement
L8627	Cochlear implant, external speech processor, component, replacement
L8628	Cochlear implant, external controller component, replacement
V5273	Assistive listening device, for use with cochlear implant

Benefit Considerations

Cochlear implants external components (i.e., speech processor, microphone, and transmitter coil) are considered under the DME benefit, and the implantable components are considered under the medical-surgical benefit. Check the federal, state, or contractual requirements for benefit plan coverage. Refer to the Medical Policy titled [Durable Medical Equipment, Orthotics, Medical Supplies, and Repairs/Replacements \(for Kansas Only\)](#).

U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

This section is to be used for informational purposes only. FDA approval alone is not a basis for coverage.

For information on non-hybrid cochlear implants, refer to the following FDA website for Premarket Approvals (use product code MCM): <https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cdrh/cfdocs/cfPMA/pma.cfm>. (Accessed January 27, 2026)

For information on hybrid cochlear implants, refer to the following FDA website for Premarket Approvals (use product code PGQ): <http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cdrh/cfdocs/cfPMN/pmn.cfm>. (Accessed January 27, 2026)

References

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA). Sensorineural Hearing Loss. Available at: <https://www.asha.org/public/hearing/sensorineural-hearing-loss/>. (Accessed January 27, 2026).

Kansas Medical Assistance Program Durable Medical Equipment Fee-for-Service Provider Manual. Available at: https://portal.kmap-state-ks.us/Documents/Provider/Provider%20Manuals/Audiology_25276_25016.pdf. Accessed April 1, 2026.

Policy History/Revision Information

Date	Summary of Changes
06/01/2026	<p data-bbox="337 558 1044 590">Medical Records Documentation Used for Reviews</p> <ul data-bbox="337 590 1495 926" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="337 590 716 621">● Added language to indicate:<ul data-bbox="386 621 1495 926" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="386 621 1438 684">○ Benefit coverage for health services is determined by the federal, state, or contractual requirements, and applicable laws that may require coverage for a specific service<li data-bbox="386 684 1495 747">○ Medical records documentation may be required to assess whether the member meets the clinical criteria for coverage but does not guarantee coverage of the service requested<li data-bbox="386 747 1463 810">○ The patient's medical record must contain documentation that fully supports the medical necessity for the requested services<li data-bbox="386 810 1398 873">○ This documentation includes but is not limited to relevant medical history, physical examination, and results of pertinent diagnostic tests or procedures<li data-bbox="386 873 1430 926">○ Documentation supporting the medical necessity should be legible, maintained in the patient's medical record, and must be made available upon request <p data-bbox="337 926 662 957">Supporting Information</p> <ul data-bbox="337 957 1166 1024" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="337 957 1166 989">● Updated <i>References</i> section to reflect the most current information<li data-bbox="337 989 927 1024">● Archived previous policy version CS019KS.02

Instructions for Use

This Medical Policy provides assistance in interpreting UnitedHealthcare standard benefit plans. When deciding coverage, the federal, state, or contractual requirements for benefit plan coverage must be referenced as the terms of the federal, state, or contractual requirements for benefit plan coverage may differ from the standard benefit plan. In the event of a conflict, the federal, state, or contractual requirements for benefit plan coverage govern. Before using this policy, check the federal, state, or contractual requirements for benefit plan coverage. UnitedHealthcare reserves the right to modify its policies and guidelines as necessary. This Medical Policy is provided for informational purposes. It does not constitute medical advice.

UnitedHealthcare uses InterQual® for the primary medical/surgical criteria, and the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) criteria for substance use disorder (SUD) services, in administering health benefits. If InterQual® does not have applicable criteria, UnitedHealthcare may also use UnitedHealthcare Medical Policies that have been approved by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. The UnitedHealthcare Medical Policies are intended to be used in connection with the independent professional medical judgment of a qualified health care provider and do not constitute the practice of medicine or medical advice.