

Cochlear Implants (for Tennessee Only)

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[Instructions for Use](#)

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Related Policies

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

Application

This Medical Policy applies to Medicaid and CoverKids in the state of Tennessee.

Coverage Rationale

This policy only applies to individuals under 21 years of age. (TennCare Rules 1200-13-13)

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.](#)

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

Refer to the federal, state, or contractual definitions that supersede the definitions below.

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

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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 \(for Tennessee Only\)](#).

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 February 28, 2025)

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 February 28, 2025)

References

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA). Sensorineural Hearing Loss. Available at: <https://www.asha.org/public/hearing/sensorineural-hearing-loss/>. Accessed February 28, 2025.

TennCare Medicaid, Chapter 1200-13-13-.10 Exclusions. Available at: <https://sos.tn.gov/publications/services/tenncare-rules-and-regulations>. Accessed June 2, 2025.

Policy History/Revision Information

Date	Summary of Changes
11/01/2025	<p data-bbox="337 617 1040 651">Medical Records Documentation Used for Reviews</p> <ul data-bbox="337 651 1498 989" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="337 651 716 684">• Added language to indicate:<ul data-bbox="386 684 1498 989" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="386 684 1442 743">○ 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="386 743 1498 802">○ 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="386 802 1468 861">○ The patient's medical record must contain documentation that fully supports the medical necessity for the requested services<li data-bbox="386 861 1398 919">○ This documentation includes but is not limited to relevant medical history, physical examination, and results of pertinent diagnostic tests or procedures<li data-bbox="386 919 1430 978">○ 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="337 989 662 1022">Supporting Information</p> <ul data-bbox="337 1022 1170 1089" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="337 1022 1170 1056">• Updated <i>References</i> section to reflect the most current information<li data-bbox="337 1056 919 1089">• Archived previous policy version CS019TN.Q

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, please 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 may also use tools developed by third parties, such as the InterQual® criteria, to assist us in administering health benefits. 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.