

Coverage of any medical intervention discussed in a Dean Health Plan medical policy is subject to the limitations and exclusions outlined in the member's benefit certificate or policy and to applicable state and/or federal laws.

Hearing Aids

MP9445

Covered Service: Yes

**Prior Authorization
Required:**

Prior authorization is **not** required

**Additional
Information:**

Self-funded plans (ASO) may require prior authorization. Please refer to the member's Summary Plan Description (SPD) or call the Customer Service number found on the member's card for specific prior authorization requirements. The [Hearing Assessment Tool](#) is available for ASO members.

Medicare Policy:

Prior authorization is dependent on the member's Medicare coverage. Prior authorization is not required for Medicare Cost (Dean Care Gold) and Medicare Supplement (Select) when this service is provided by participating providers. Prior authorization is required if a member has Medicare primary and Dean Health Plan secondary coverage. This policy is not applicable to our Medicare Replacement products.

**BadgerCare Plus
Policy:**

Dean Health Plan covers when BadgerCare Plus also covers the benefit.

Dean Health Plan Medical Policy:

- 1.0 Air conduction hearing aid devices are defined as the following: behind the ear (BTE); in the ear (ITE) device; in the ear canal (ITC) device; completely in the canal (CIC) device; and contralateral routing of sound (CROS) device for single sided hearing loss.
- 2.0 Air conduction binaural and monoaural hearing aids **do not require** prior authorization and are considered medically necessary when **ANY** of the following criteria are met in either or both ear(s):
 - 2.1 Hearing thresholds 40 decibels (dB) HL or greater at 500, 1000, 2000, 3000 or 4000 hertz (Hz); **OR**
 - 2.2 Hearing thresholds 26 dB HL or greater at three of these frequencies; **OR**
 - 2.3 Speech recognition less than 94 percent.
- 3.0 Hearing exams are required and must be performed by a licensed audiologist to evaluate and determine if correction is needed. An initial exam does not require prior authorization but must meet **ALL** of the following criteria:

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- 3.1 Evaluation by an in-plan audiologist is required; **AND**
- 3.2 Documentation of an audiogram, needs assessment and medical clearance must be within the past six (6) months.
- 4.0 Infants and children through the age 18 who are certified as deaf or hearing impaired by a physician or audiologist are eligible for bilateral (both ears) hearing aids.
- 5.0 The following hearing devices are not medically necessary:
 - 5.1 A fully implantable middle ear hearing aid
 - 5.2 Non-implantable, intraoral bone conduction hearing aid.
- 6.0 Hearing Aids that can be purchased without a medical evaluation or over the counter are considered not medically necessary.
- 7.0 Batteries for hearing aids after the one supplied with the initial aid are not medically necessary.
- 8.0 All other indications not listed above are considered experimental and investigational, and therefore are not medically necessary.
- 9.0 Please refer to medical policy [Bone Anchored Hearing Aid MP9018](#) for additional information.

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