

## **Subchapter B. Cochlear Device**

### **§8717. Eligibility and Prior Authorization**

A. Coverage is available for cochlear implantation for recipients 2 years of age through 20 years of age with profound bilateral sensorineural hearing loss.

B. Prior Authorization. All implantations (CPT Code 69930) must be prior authorized. The request to perform surgery shall come from the cochlear implant team (made up

of professionals as described in §8721 who assessed the recipient's hearing.

**AUTHORITY NOTE:** Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 36:254 and Title XIX of the Social Security Act.

**HISTORICAL NOTE:** Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of the Secretary, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 24:1300 (July 1998), repromulgated LR 29:181 (February 2003).

### §8719. Recipient Criteria

A. Recipient Criteria (General). The following criteria apply to all candidates. Recipient must:

1. have a profound bilateral sensorineural hearing loss which is a pure tone average of 1,000, 2,000, and 4,000 Hz of 90 dB HL or greater;
2. be a profoundly deaf child, age 2 years or older or be a post linguistically deafened adult through the age of 20 years;
3. receive no significant benefit from hearing aids as validated by the cochlear implant team;
4. have high motivation to be part of the hearing community as validated by the cochlear implant team;
5. have appropriate expectation;
6. have had radiologic studies that demonstrate no intracranial anomalies or malformations which would contraindicate implantation of the receiver-stimulator or the electrode array;
7. have no medical contraindications for undergoing implant surgery or post-implant rehabilitation; and
8. show that he and his family are well-motivated, possess appropriate post-implant expectations and are prepared and willing to participate in and cooperate with pre and post implant assessment and rehabilitation programs as recommended by the implant team and in conjunction with Federal Drug Administration (FDA) guidelines.

#### B. Recipient Criteria (Specific)

1. Children 2 Years through 9 Years. In addition to documentation that candidates meet general criteria, the requestor shall provide documentation that:

- a. profound-to-total bilateral sensorineural hearing loss which is a pure tone average of 1,000, 2,000, and 4,000 Hz of 90dB HL or greater;
- b. appropriate tests were administered and no significant benefit from a hearing aid was obtained in the best aided condition as measured by age-appropriate speech perception materials; and
- c. no responses were obtained to Auditory Brainstem Response, Otoacoustic Emission testing, or any other special testing that would be required to determine that the hearing loss is valid and severe enough to qualify for cochlear implantation.

2. Children 10 Years through 17 Years. In addition to documentation that candidates meet general criteria, the requestor shall provide documentation that:

- a. profound-to-total bilateral sensorineural hearing loss which is a pure tone average of 1,000, 2,000, and 4,000 Hz of 90dB HL or greater;
- b. appropriate tests were administered and no significant benefit from a hearing aid was obtained in the best aided condition as measured by age and language-appropriate speech perception materials;
- c. no responses were obtained to Auditory Brainstem Evoked Response, Otoacoustic Emission Testing, or any other special testing that would be required to determine that the hearing loss is valid and severe enough to qualify for cochlear implantation;
- d. the candidate has received consistent exposure to effective auditory or phonological stimulation in conjunction with oral method of education and auditory training;
- e. the candidate utilizes spoken language as his primary mode of communication through one of the following:
  - i. an oral/aural (re)habilitational program; or
  - ii. a total communications educational program with significant oral/aural; and
- f. the individual has at least six months' experience with a hearing aid or vibrotactile device except in the case of meningitis (in which case the six-month period will be reduced to three months).

3. Adults 18 Years through 20 Years. In addition to documentation that candidates meet general criteria, the requestor shall provide documentation that:

- a. the candidate for implant is post linguistically deafened with severe to profound bilateral sensorineural hearing loss which is a pure tone average of 1,000, 2,000, and 4,000 Hz of 90dB HL or greater;
- b. no significant benefit from a hearing aid was obtained in the best aided condition for speech/sentence recognition material;
- c. no responses were obtained to Auditory Brainstem Response, Otoacoustic Emission testing, or any other special testing that would be required to determine that the hearing loss is valid and severe enough to qualify for cochlear implantation;
- d. the candidate has received consistent exposure to effective auditory or phonological stimulation or auditory communication;
- e. the candidate utilizes spoken language as his primary mode of communication through one of the following:
  - i. an oral/aural (re)habilitation program; or
  - ii. a total communications educational program with significant oral/aural training; and

f. the candidate has had at least six months' experience with hearing aids or vibrotactile device except in the case of meningitis (in which case the six-month period will be reduced to three months).

4. Multi-Handicapped Children. Criteria appropriate for the child's age group are applied.

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