

EHDI Initial Hearing Aid Funding

- The state-funded Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) program provides funding for hearing aids for children ages 0 to 3 who are diagnosed with permanent hearing loss at no cost to the family.
- One-time coverage includes a dispensing fee (with an initial supply of batteries), the cost of hearing aids, and earmolds. EHDI funding reimburses using current Medicaid rates.

Eligibility and Pre-Screening

- Children eligible for EHDI funding are younger than age 3 with a documented permanent hearing loss in one or both ears, do not have Medicaid, and may have private insurance without a hearing aid benefit. There are no income eligibility for inclusion in this program.
- When applying for coverage through the EHDI fund using the NCTracks system, all children will automatically be screened through the NCTracks system first to see if they qualify for Medicaid or other payers. EHDI is for children without Medicaid or other insurance hearing aid benefits.

Coverage

- The EHDI Initial Hearing Aid fund can provide coverage up to what Medicaid would pay only. It is the payer of last resort. This means that if an audiology practice chooses to participate in the EHDI Initial Hearing Aid program, **they cannot bill the family the difference between Medicaid reimbursement rates and non-Medicaid rates for hearing aids and fitting**. Although you may be pre-approved for EHDI funding, it is not a guarantee of payment.

Procedure Codes

- V5060 (monaural hearing aid), V5090 (monaural dispensing fee), V5130 (binaural hearing aids), V5110 (binaural dispensing fee), V5264 (earmolds, quantity 1 or 2), V5267 (hearing aid care kit)
- V5266 (batteries): currently EHDI can reimburse for one battery claim, which must be billed on a separate date from the initial hearing aid fitting. NC tracks will deny the claim if the batteries are billed on the same date as the hearing aid fitting.

How To Apply

- Complete Form DHHS 3014
- Fill out all highlighted sections
- The **audiologist signs** as the interviewer
- Parents must sign form
- Email 3014 to lizzie.guffey@dhhs.nc.gov or fax to the EHDI program at (919) 870-4881
- NC DHHS staff will enter child into NCTracks system.

Request Prior Authorization (PA) in the NCTracks system

- Check NCTracks to make sure that child is in the system and eligible for EHDI. Generally, EHDI staff will also continue to check for EHDI eligibility and notify the audiologist when they are entered into NCTracks.
- Use allowable billing codes that are referenced above.
- Make sure that the NPI numbers on the PA match what will be used for billing, or the claim will be denied.
- The requesting audiologist should check NC Tracks periodically for approval status. Once approval has been confirmed, the audiologist can proceed with the hearing aid fitting.

Request Claim

- Hearing aids and related services should be billed electronically through NCTracks, as a professional claim. If there is insurance, an EOB must be received before a claim can be submitted into NCTracks.
- Supporting documentation such as EOB, invoices, and a Hearing Aid Post Dispensing Evaluation Form should be attached electronically to the claim.
- Make sure that the NPI numbers on the PA match what is used for billing. Otherwise, the claim will be denied.