

Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care

Hearing Devices Policy and Administration Manual

Assistive Devices Program
Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care

February 2016

www.health.gov.on.ca/adp



Table of Amendments

This page will list all substantive changes to policies and procedures listed in the Manual.

Section	Change	Date
1000	Clarified Vendor Status	August 13, 2015
510	Added service delivery model for BAHA abutment only	May 1, 2015
710, 715	Updated prices for BAHA Replacement Sound Processors, Abutments and Teletypewriters (TTY)	May 1, 2015
605	Updated designated funding period for hearing aids	May 1, 2015
100	Added manufacturers/distributors of devices as intended target audience	October 1, 2014
200	Added requirement that manufacturers/ distributors provide invoices	October 1, 2014
205	Added manufacturer warranty requirements	October 1, 2014
210	Clarified removal of listed devices	October 1, 2014
215	Clarified device pricing reviews	October 1, 2014
805	Physician changed to prescriber	April 1, 2014

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Introduction

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Part 1: Introduction to Hearing Devices Policy and Administration Manual

100 Purpose of the Manual

The purpose of this Manual is to present the policies and procedures for ADP funding of hearing Devices in one document. The Devices are:

- Bone Anchored Hearing Aid (BAHA) Replacement Sound Processors;
- Cochlear Implant Replace Speech Processors;
- Hearing Aids (including FM systems); and
- Teletypewriters (TTY) for the Deaf or Speech Impaired.

This Manual is intended to complement the Policies and Procedures Manual for the Assistive Devices Program (ADP Manual).

This Manual forms part of the agreement between the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and the Vendor, and the agreement between the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and the Authorizer. The Ministry reserves the right to revise this Manual.

100.01 **Intended Target Audience**

This Manual is intended to be used by Authorizers and Vendors who have an entered into an agreement with the Assistive Devices Program (ADP) to provide Devices and services related to:

- Bone Anchored Hearing Aid (BAHA) Replacement Sound Processors;
- Cochlear Implant Replacement Speech Processors;

- Hearing Aids;
- Teletypewriters (TTY) for the Deaf or Speech Impaired.

This Manual may also be useful to prescribers and dispensers with a role in hearing devices.

105 Protecting Personal Health Information

Authorizers and Vendors must comply with all applicable privacy laws governing information regarding their Clients.

See the ADP Manual, Policy 700, Protection of Personal Information and Personal Health Information.

110 Definitions

Capitalized terms used in this Manual have the meaning associated with them as set out in the ADP Manual or such meanings as described below:

- 110.01 **Adult** means any person 19 years of age or older.
- 110.02 **Audiologist** means a professional who holds a valid certificate of registration from the College of Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists of Ontario (CASLPO) and licensed to practise in Ontario.
- 110.03 **Authorizer** means an Audiologist or a hearing instrument specialist as described in this Manual, Policy 905, Requirements for Authorizer Status or a Speech-Language Pathologist who has met all registration requirements with the Program and holds an executed Authorizer Agreement with the Program.
- 110.04 **Child** means any person 18 years of age or younger.

- 110.05 **Manual** means this Hearing Devices Policy and Administration Manual.
- 110.06 **Otolaryngologist** means a professional who holds a valid certificate of registration from the College of Physicians & Surgeons of Ontario and licensed to practise medicine in Ontario, and to whom a certificate in the specialty of otolaryngology has been issued by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.
- 110.07 **Product Manual** means, as appropriate:
- Hearing Devices - Hearing Aids
 - Hearing Devices - Hearing Aids and FM Systems Approved Products
 - Hearing Devices - Hearing Implant Replacement Speech/Sound Processor and/or
 - Hearing Devices - Telecommunication Devices
- 110.08 **Speech-Language Pathologist** means a professional who holds a valid certificate of registration from the College of Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists of Ontario (CASLPO) and licensed to practise in Ontario.

For more definitions, see the ADP Manual, Policy 110, Definitions

115 Roles and Responsibilities

In the process of confirming eligibility for funding assistance, the Applicant/ Client, the Authorizer and the Vendor each have specific roles, certain rights and responsibilities.

Additional information may be found in:

- Policies and Procedures Manual for the Assistive Devices Program,
- the Authorizer Agreement and

- the Vendor Agreement.

115.01 **Roles and Responsibilities of the Applicant or Client**

- Is responsible for arranging for an assessment with an Authorizer and providing the necessary and accurate information to the Authorizer.
- Will make an informed decision including, but not limited to, whether or not to proceed with an Application Form, based on the accurate information provided by the Authorizer and the Vendor during the assessment and the ADP application process.
- Provides the necessary and accurate information on the Application Form, Section 1 – “Applicant’s Biographical Information”.
- Should carefully review all the information on the Application Form, including Section 3 – “Applicant’s Consent & Signature” prior to signing this section.
- Has the right to seek a second opinion if he/she disagrees with the Authorizer’s assessment of his/her hearing device needs.
- Is responsible for paying his/her portion of the cost for the Authorized Device purchase directly to the Vendor.
- After the Authorized Device is received, follows up with the Authorizer and/or Vendor, as appropriate (e.g. regarding questions or difficulties with the Authorized Device).
- Obtains and provides quotations for repairs, as required.

115.02 **Roles and Responsibilities of the Authorizer**

- Is the gatekeeper to the Program and assumes the leadership role in the assessment process, confirmation of the Applicant’s eligibility, and completion of the Application Form in a timely manner.
- Will perform a thorough assessment to determine the Applicant’s eligibility to apply for funding assistance, confirm the need for a hearing Device,

determine and authorize the appropriate hearing Device to meet the Applicant's hearing needs, taking into consideration the Applicant's input and environments where he/she normally functions

- (e.g. home, school, work and community).
- Careful consideration should be given to the projected needs of the Applicant over the designated funding period of the Device.
- Is an essential resource for the Applicant regarding the different types of devices available to meet his/her hearing needs.
- Will provide the Applicant with accurate information about ADP policies and procedures, eligibility criteria and the estimated cost to purchase the Authorized Device.
- Will provide the Applicant with the applicant information sheet.
- Will provide the Authorized Device specifications (includes make and model) with the exception of TTYs.
- Will provide the Applicant with a list of Vendors serving his/her community and advise Applicants to consider more than one Vendor to compare options, service plans and, if relevant, prices. Lists are available on the ADP website.
- Follows up with the Client after the Authorized Device has been provided (for hearing aids - before the trial period ends) to ensure the Authorized Device meets the Client's hearing requirements. Exception: TTYs.
- Refers an individual with suspected change in medical condition to the individual's Physician or Otolaryngologist.
- Must not submit an Application Form to the Program for an individual who does not meet the ADP eligibility criteria.
- Maintains current knowledge of the Devices for which he/she is registered to authorize.

- Must continue to meet all conditions specified in his/her executed Authorizer Agreement and all applicable Manuals.

Additional Information – Hearing Aids

The Authorizer informs the Applicant's Physician or Audiologist, in writing, regarding the Applicant's audiological functioning and hearing aid recommendation prior to the Physician or Audiologist completing the prescriber section(s) of the Application Form.

The Authorizer may:

- Authorize only, then provide the Applicant with a full list of Vendors in the community. The Authorizer cannot refer the Applicant to a Vendor with whom the Authorizer has a financial relationship, **or**
- Authorize and dispense the Device, if the Authorizer is also a dispenser as described in this Manual, Policy 1005, Staffing Requirements for Vendors. In this instance, the Applicant must also see a Physician or Audiologist (with whom the Authorizer/dispenser has no financial relationship) who completes the prescriber section(s) of the Application Form, after receiving the Authorizer's report.

The Authorizer must attach a copy of the completed audiogram for both ears, or the Auditory Brainstem Response (ABR) report and sound field test results (applies to young children only) to the Application Form and gives it to the Applicant to take to the Vendor.

The Authorizer must keep a copy of the Application Form and a copy of the audiogram in the Applicant's file. Audiograms must be signed and dated by the Authorizer. Audiograms are valid for 6 months from the date that they are completed, signed and dated.

115.03 Roles and Responsibilities of the Dispenser (For Hearing Aids)

- Ensures that the Application Form has been fully completed by the Applicant, prescriber and Authorizer.

- Prepares the earmold impression and provides the fitting of the hearing aid specified by the Authorizer.
- Provides counseling and instructions necessary for the proper and effective use, operation, care and maintenance of the hearing aid, earmold and other related devices (e.g. FM systems), trouble-shoots and adjusts the hearing aid, where appropriate, as part of the dispensing duties.
- Provides the Applicant with a copy of the manufacturer's hearing aid warranty.
- Provides the Applicant with a minimum 30-day trial period, in writing, to test the suitability of the hearing aid.
- Notifies the Authorizer when the hearing aid has been dispensed and sends the Applicant to the Authorizer for a hearing aid check before the end of the trial period.
- Must consult with the Authorizer before any changes or substitutions are made to the Authorized Device (hearing aid), unless the Applicant seeks a second opinion and the Applicant's hearing is re-tested and a new assessment conducted by another Authorizer. In this instance, a new Application Form must be completed by the Authorizer who retested the Applicant, conducted the assessment and authorized the new hearing aid (or FM system).
- Maintains current knowledge of hearing aids listed in the Product Manual.

115.04 **Roles and Responsibilities of the Vendor**

- Orders and provides prompt delivery of the Authorized Device specified on the Application Form.
- Provides counseling and instructions necessary for the proper and effective use, operation, care and maintenance for all Devices sold.
- Provides the Applicant with a fully itemized invoice for the Authorized Device purchase together with a copy of the manufacturer's warranty and user manual, and collects from the Applicant the difference between the

total cost of the Authorized Device purchase and the ADP funding contribution.

- Submits the Application Form to the Program for processing.
- Honours manufacturer's warranties for the benefit of Clients and provides after-sales service such as repair and maintenance services.
- Keeps an adequate stock and maintains current knowledge of Devices which they are authorized to sell.
- Provides repair quotes, as necessary, to the Applicant and/or to the ADP.
- Must continue to meet all conditions specified in their executed Vendor Agreement and the Manuals.

Additional Information: TTY Vendors

- For TTYs, the make and model is not specified by the Authorizer. The Applicant selects the make and model of TTY and flashing signaling device (if applicable) with the assistance of the Vendor's trained staff.
- The Vendor will work with the Applicant to ensure the choice of Device is appropriate to meet the Applicant's basic needs.
- The Vendor must have a minimum of one TTY and one flashing signaling device listed in the Product Manual for demonstration purposes.

Devices Covered

2

Part 2: Devices Covered by ADP

200 Devices Covered

The hearing devices approved for ADP funding are listed in the Product Manual. They are:

- Hearing Aids/FM systems
- Cochlear Implant Replacement Speech Processors
- Bone Anchored Hearing Aid (BAHA) Replacement Sound Processors
- Teletypewriters and accompanying flashing signaling devices

In order to list devices with the Program, the manufacturer/distributor responsible for the product in the Ontario market must warranty the product for a minimum period of time as follows:

- Hearing Aids - minimum 2 year warranty from date of fitting/ dispensing to the Client.
- FM systems – minimum 3 year warranty from date of dispensing to the Client.
- Cochlear Implant Replacement Speech Processors – minimum 3 year warranty from date of initial activation of the Client's device.

The procedure for manufacturers/distributors to apply for approval of a new and/or updated product is available, upon request from the Program.

For generic hearing devices funded by the Program, the Vendor may only provide Devices that have a minimum manufacturer/distributor warranty period as follows:

- Bone Anchored Hearing Aid (BAHA) Replacement Sound Processors- minimum 2 year warranty from date of initial stimulation of the Client's Device.
- Teletypewriters and accompanying flashing signaling devices - minimum 1 year warranty from date the Device(s) is delivered to the Client.

205 Hearing Aids/FM Systems

Hearing aids/FM systems are listed in the Product Manual.

210 Cochlear Implant Replacement Speech Processors

Cochlear implant replacement speech processors are listed in the Product Manual.

215 Bone Anchored Hearing Aid (BAHA) Replacement Sound Processors

BAHA replacement sound processors are listed in the Product Manual.

220 Teletypewriters (TTY) for the Deaf or Speech Impaired

Teletypewriters and flashing signaling devices are listed in the Product Manual.

225 Items Not Funded by ADP

- devices that are purchased from suppliers that are not registered with the Ministry or that are located out-of-province
- devices that are authorized before they are approved by the ADP for listing in the Product Manual
- extended warranties, service plans, handling fees
- used devices, hearing tests
- earmolds that are purchased separately from the hearing aid
- flashing signaling devices purchased separately from the TTY

230 Repairs/Batteries

The ADP does not provide funding towards the cost of repairs, maintenance and/or batteries for any Device.

Applicant Eligibility for Hearing Devices

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Part 3: Applicant Eligibility Criteria for Hearing Devices

300 Basic Hearing Device Requirements

The Applicant must meet the eligibility criteria for Program benefits. See ADP Manual, Policy 300, Eligibility Criteria for Program Benefits.

The Applicant must have a physical disability (documented hearing loss) requiring the use of a hearing Device for a period of six months or longer.

In the opinion of a Physician or Audiologist, the Applicant has a documented hearing loss sufficient to warrant the use of a hearing Device and requires the use of a hearing Device to facilitate communication and/or enhance language development on a continual or recurrent basis for a period of six months or longer.

The Applicant must require the hearing Device(s) for his/her own personal use and the intended use is to promote functional well-being in a variety of regular daily activities and settings such as home, school, recreation, sports and work.

Basic Hearing Device Requirements – TTYs for the Speech-Impaired

The Applicant must meet the eligibility criteria for Program benefits. **See ADP Manual, Policy 300, Eligibility Criteria for Program Benefits.**

The Applicant must have physical disability (speech impairment) requiring the use of a Teletypewriter (TTY) for a period of six months or longer.

In the opinion of Physician or a Speech-Language Pathologist, the Applicant has a speech impairment sufficient to warrant the use of a TTY and requires the

use of the TTY to facilitate communication on a continual or recurrent basis for a period of six months or longer.

The Applicant must require the TTY for his/her own personal use and the intended use is to promote functional well-being in a variety of regular daily activities.

305 Non-Eligible Hearing Device Requirements

The Program does not provide funding for Devices used intermittently or for single purpose such as exclusive use for school, work, recreation or sport.

310 Individual Identified Ineligible by Authorizer

An Application Form must not be submitted to the Program if, after assessing the hearing requirements of the Applicant, the Authorizer confirms that the individual does not meet the ADP eligibility criteria.

315 Applicant Identified Ineligible by ADP

An Applicant may be deemed ineligible if the criteria for his/her access to the Program are not met or where information supplied in connection with an Application Form is insufficient, incomplete and/or inaccurate. In cases of denial, the Vendor and the Applicant will be advised of the reason.

Confirmation of Eligibility for Devices Required

4

Part 4: Confirmation of Eligibility for Devices Required

To determine what Device(s) is clinically required and basic for ADP funding purposes, the Authorizer must complete a comprehensive assessment. Once the assessment has been completed and the Authorizer determines eligibility for ADP funding assistance, the Application for Funding Hearing Devices may be completed.

400 Hearing Aids

- The Applicant must have a documented hearing loss, and
- There is documented evidence of the need for the hearing aid to meet his/her basic daily listening needs based on established clinical tools.

405 FM Systems

- The Applicant must have a documented hearing loss.
- There is documented evidence of the need for the FM system technology to meet the Applicant's basic listening needs such as, but not limited to, subjective questionnaires. i.e. Client Oriented Scale of Improvement (COSI), speech-in-noise testing and/or patient reports.
- There is evidence of the Applicant's ability to use the Device.
- The benefits and limitations of FM technology have been explained to the Applicant.

- Validation and verification of FM system technology (as defined by CASLPO) for the Applicant has occurred before the end of the trial period of the Device.
- Dispensing: Written documentation of education on use, care/maintenance and minor trouble-shooting of the FM system as well as warranty and trial period is to be signed by the Applicant before the end of the trial period.

410 Cochlear Implant Replacement Speech Processor

The Program does not provide funding for an initial speech processor.

Funding assistance towards a replacement speech processor may be provided when all of the following criteria are met:

- A minimum of 3 years has passed since the date of the cochlear implant surgery.
- The Applicant has not received funding from the Ministry in the past 3 years towards a cochlear implant speech processor.
- The current cochlear implant speech processor is not working and
 - cannot be repaired at a reasonable cost, or
 - is no longer serviced by the manufacturer

415 Bone Anchored Hearing Aid (BAHA) Replacement Sound Processor

The Program does not provide funding for an initial sound processor or initial abutment. Funding assistance towards a replacement sound processor and/or replacement abutment may be provided when all of the following criteria are met:

- The Applicant must be over 5 years of age.
- The Applicant must be diagnosed with one of the following:
 - Unilateral or bilateral aural atresia;
 - Congenital or acquired malformation of the auditory canal;
 - Unilateral or bilateral chronic ear disease
- A minimum of 5 years has passed since the date of the bone anchored hearing aid surgery.
- The Applicant has not received funding from the Ministry in the past 5 years towards a BAHA sound processor or an abutment.
- The Applicant's current BAHA sound processor and/or abutment is not working and
 - cannot be repaired at a reasonable cost, or
 - is no longer serviced by the manufacturer.

420 Teletypewriters (TTY) for the Deaf or Speech Impaired

- The Applicant has a hearing loss severe enough to impede normal use of the telephone even with the use of a hearing aid and voice amplified telephone and requires the use of a TTY and flashing signaling device. or
- The Applicant has a speech impairment severe enough to impede normal use of the telephone even with the use of an augmentative communication aid, and requires the use of a TTY.

Service Delivery Models for Hearing Devices

5

Part 5: Service Delivery Models for Hearing Devices

500 Hearing Aids and FM Systems

If the Applicant is a Child and applying for funding assistance towards a hearing aid/FM system he/she must:

- See a Physician or Audiologist (prescriber) who confirms that the Applicant has a hearing loss sufficient to warrant the use of a hearing aid on a long term basis as part of his/her total daily activities. **Note: An Otolaryngologist's assessment is required for a first-time Child Applicant or for any Child whose hearing loss is not stable. The Otolaryngologist completes the prescriber section (section 4) of the Application for Funding Hearing Devices.**
- Be assessed by an Authorizer (that has a Children's Hearing Aids designation).
- Have the hearing aids/FM system dispensed by a hearing aid dispenser.
- Purchase the hearing aids from a Vendor (that has a Hearing Aids designation).

If the Applicant is an Adult and applying for funding assistance towards a hearing aid/FM system then he/she must:

- See a Physician or Audiologist (prescriber) who confirms that the Applicant has a hearing loss sufficient to warrant the use of a hearing aid on a long term basis as part of his/her total daily activities.
- Be assessed by an Authorizer (that has an Adults Hearing Aids designation).

- Have the hearing aids/FM system dispensed by a hearing aid dispenser.
- Purchase the hearing aids/FM system from a Vendor (that has a Hearing Aids designation).

FM systems must be authorized by an Authorizer who is an Audiologist.

500.01 **Prescription of a Hearing Aid**

Prescription of a hearing aid is a controlled act under the *Regulated Health Professions Act*. A prescriber for a hearing aid is a family physician (general practitioner), or an Otolaryngologist, or an Audiologist.

500.02 **Conflict of Interest**

If the Physician has a financial relationship with the Authorizer, dispenser or Vendor, the Physician cannot complete the prescriber section (section 4) of the Application for Funding Hearing Devices. Another Physician or Audiologist who does not have a financial relationship with the Authorizer, dispenser or Vendor must complete the prescriber section (section 4) of the Application for Funding Hearing Devices.

If the Audiologist has a financial relationship with the Authorizer, dispenser or Vendor, the Audiologist cannot complete the prescriber section (section 4) of the Application for Funding Hearing Devices. Another Audiologist or Physician who does not have a financial relationship with the Authorizer, dispenser or Vendor must complete the prescriber section (section 4) of the Application for Funding Hearing Devices.

500.03 **Hearing Aids/FM Systems Assessment Process**

In order to determine what Device(s) is clinically required and basic for ADP funding purposes, the Authorizer must complete a thorough assessment. The assessment must include an audiogram for both ears.

The audiogram must include:

- Pure tone air and bone conduction thresholds.
- Speech recognition threshold (formerly speech reception threshold)

- Speech recognition score (formerly discrimination)
- Tolerance/uncomfortable level
- Most comfortable level
- Immittance (not mandatory for Adults)
- Masking where necessary
- Authorizer signature and date

For young children (e.g. 0 to 36 months), complete audiograms may be contingent upon the age and ability of the child to respond. In cases where a complete audiogram cannot be obtained, results from auditory brainstem response audiometry or sound field testing may be used to authorize a hearing aid until a complete audiogram can be conducted.

The assessment of a child 0 - 36 months must include at least soundfield testing and immittance testing.

Regular audiologic reviews, at least every six months, are recommended until a complete audiogram can be obtained.

500.04 **Authorizer Equipment Requirements**

Authorizers must have the following testing equipment:

For Children:

- A sound isolating booth meeting ANSI standards with visual reinforcement audiometry (VRA) capabilities.
- A clinical audiometer capable of air, bone, masking, speech recognition and sound field testing.
- A middle ear analyzer (impedance bridge).

The following is recommended and encouraged:

- A probe tube microphone.

All test equipment must be calibrated at least once a year and meet ANSI specifications. Test facilities and instrumentation must be CSA/Ontario Hydro approved.

For Adults:

- A test environment in which the ambient noise levels do not exceed 40dBA SPL.
- A clinical or portable audiometer capable of air, bone, masking and speech recognition.

The following are recommended and encouraged:

- An impedance bridge.
- A sound treated room meeting ANSI standards.

Equipment must be calibrated at least once a year to meet ANSI specifications. Test instrumentation must be CSA/Ontario Hydro approved.

505 Cochlear Implant Replacement Speech Processor

The Applicant must:

- See an Otolaryngologist (prescriber).
- Be assessed by an Authorizer (with a Cochlear Implant Replacement Speech Processor designation).
- Purchase the speech processor from a Vendor (with a Cochlear Implant Replacement Speech Processor designation).

- Return to the Authorizer for mapping of the Authorized Device.

510 Bone Anchored Hearing Aid (BAHA) Replacement Sound Processor

If a replacement sound processor and abutment are required, then the Applicant must:

- See Otolaryngologist (prescriber) actively engaged in the BAHA program at the hospital.
- Be assessed by an Authorizer (with a BAHA Replacement Sound Processor designation).
- Purchase the sound processor from a Vendor (with a BAHA Replacement Sound Processor designation).

If only a replacement sound processor is required, then the Applicant must:

- Be assessed by an Authorizer (with a BAHA Replacement Sound Processor designation).
- Purchase the sound processor from a Vendor (with a BAHA Replacement Sound Processor designation).

If an abutment only is required, then the Applicant must:

- See an Otolaryngologist (prescriber) actively engaged in the BAHA program at the hospital who will determine if a replacement abutment is required.
- Purchase the abutment from a Vendor (with a BAHA Replacement Sound Processor designation).
- Return to the Otolaryngologist (prescriber) for replacement of the device.

515 Teletypewriters (TTY) for the Deaf or Speech Impaired

If the Applicant is deaf, then he/she must:

- Be assessed by either a Physician or an Audiologist Authorizer (with a Hearing Aids designation) to determine eligibility.
- Purchase the TTY and accompanying flashing signaling device from a Vendor (with a TTY designation).

Note: A flashing signaling device must be purchased at the same time as the TTY. The ADP does not fund flashing signaling devices separately.

If the Applicant has a speech impairment, then he/she must:

- Be assessed by either a Physician or a Speech-Language Pathologist Authorizer (with a Communication Aids designation) to determine eligibility.
- Purchase the TTY from a Vendor (with a TTY designation).

Note: Speech impaired Applicants are not eligible for funding towards the flashing signaling device.

Device Eligibility

6

Part 6: Device Eligibility

600 Number of Devices Funded and Designated Funding Periods

Hearing Aids/FM Systems

Based on the Authorizer's assessment, the Applicant may require more than one Device.

ADP funding assistance may be requested for:

- One or two hearing aids (one for each ear)
- One FM system

Types of hearing aids funded by the Program include: behind the ear; in the ear; in the canal; and completely in the canal.

A CROS or BICROS hearing aid is considered one hearing aid. When a hearing aid is modified to make it into a CROS or BICROS hearing aid, include the hearing aid with CROS/BICROSs option/modification as part of the fully itemized invoice provided to the Applicant.

Cochlear Implant Replacement Speech Processor

ADP funding assistance may be requested for a cochlear implant replacement speech processor.

Bone Anchored Hearing Aid (BAHA) Replacement Sound Processor

ADP funding assistance may be requested for a BAHA replacement sound processor, and/or an abutment, if required.

Teletypewriters (TTY) for the Deaf or Speech Impaired

If the Applicant is hearing impaired, ADP funding assistance may be requested for one TTY and one accompanying flashing signaling device.

If the Applicant is speech impaired, ADP funding assistance may be requested for one TTY.

605 Designated Funding Periods

The designated funding period identifies how long the hearing device should, in most cases, remain in good repair under normal use. The Program does not automatically provide funding towards a replacement hearing device at the end of the designated funding period.

The following are the designated funding periods:

- Hearing Aids/FM systems – 5 years
- Cochlear Implant Replacement Speech Processors – 3 years
- BAHA Replacement Sound Processors – 5 years
- Teletypewriters – 5 years

610 Request for a Replacement Device

The ADP may provide funding during or following the designated funding period for a new hearing Device, under certain circumstances.

Significant Change in Hearing (Hearing Aids)

If during or following the designated funding period, an Otolaryngologist determines that the Client has experienced a significant change in hearing in the ear for which the original ADP funded hearing aid was authorized, and the hearing aid is no longer suitable for the Client, the Client can apply for funding assistance towards the cost of a new hearing aid.

A significant change in hearing is defined a minimum 20 dB change in three or more of the following speech frequencies: 500 Hz, 1000 Hz, 2000 Hz, or 3000 Hz in the ear for which the original hearing aid was authorized.

Change in Medical Condition

If during or following the designated funding period, an Otolaryngologist determines that the Client has experienced a significant change in medical condition in the ear for which the original hearing aid was authorized, and the hearing aid is no longer suitable for the Client, then the Client can apply for funding assistance towards the cost of a new hearing aid.

Physical Growth/Atrophy

If during or following the designated funding period, the Authorizer determines through an assessment that the previously funded hearing Device is no longer suitable for the Client due to growth/atrophy, the Client can apply for funding assistance towards the cost of a new hearing Device.

Normal Wear

If during or following the designated funding period, the hearing Device is no longer working, not covered under warranty, and the cost to repair it is more than one third of the original purchase price, the Client can apply for funding assistance towards the cost of a new hearing Device if all eligibility criteria are met. The Vendor must submit a quotation showing the estimated cost of repairs and/or copies of repair bills together with a newly completed Application Form.

Lost Devices

The ADP will not provide funding for lost hearing Devices within the designated funding period. Clients are encouraged to purchase insurance to cover such situations. If the designated funding period has passed, the ADP will provide funding for a replacement if all other eligibility criteria are met. The Vendor must submit a Vendor quote showing: "Not Repairable- Aid Lost" together with the newly completed Application Form.

Funding and Payment

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Part 7: Funding and Payment

700 Policies

No payment of an approved Device shall be made to anyone other than a Vendor. Lists of Vendors in specific geographic areas can be obtained from the ADP website.

705 Approved Price for Hearing Aids (Includes FM Systems)

The Approved Price for all hearing aids /FM systems is the manufacturer's invoice price to the Vendor for the hearing aids/FM systems.

710 Funding Amount for ADP Clients

Hearing Aids/FM Systems

For eligible Applicants, the ADP will contribute 75 percent up to a maximum of \$500 towards the cost of a monaural hearing aid fitting, 75 percent up to a maximum of \$1000 towards the cost of a binaural hearing aid fitting, and 75 percent up to maximum of \$1350 towards the cost of an FM system.

ADP's contribution includes funding towards the cost of the eligible hearing aid listed in the Product Manual, earmold and applicable dispensing fee.

For FM systems, the ADP's contribution includes funding towards the cost of the eligible FM system listed in the Product Manual and one applicable dispensing fee.

Cochlear Implant Replacement Speech Processor

For eligible Applicants, the ADP will contribute 75 percent of the manufacturer's invoice price in Canadian dollars up to a maximum of \$5444.

Bone Anchored Hearing Aid (BAHA) Replacement Sound Processor

For eligible Applicants who require a replacement sound processor with abutment, the ADP will contribute 75 percent of the manufacturer's invoice price in Canadian dollars up to a maximum of \$3,900.

For eligible Applicants who require a replacement sound processor only, the ADP will contribute 75 percent of the manufacturer's invoice price in Canadian dollars up to a maximum of \$3,000

For eligible Applicants who require a replacement abutment only, the ADP will contribute 75 percent of the manufacturer's invoice price in Canadian dollars up to a maximum of \$900.

Teletypewriters (TTY) for the Deaf or Speech Impaired

Teletypewriter

For eligible Applicants, the ADP will contribute 75 percent up to a maximum of \$393.75 for a printing TTY and 75 percent up to a maximum of \$243.75 for a non-printing TTY.

Flashing Signaling Device

For eligible Applicants, the ADP will contribute 75 percent up to a maximum of \$49.50.

715 Funding for Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS) Benefits Recipients

Co-payment for Applicants receiving Social Assistance Benefits

- Ontario Works (OW)
- Ontario Disability Support Payment (ODSP)
- Assistance to Children with Severe Disabilities (ACSD)

715.01 Cochlear Implant Replacement Speech Processor

For Clients receiving social assistance benefits through OW, ODSP or ACSD as of the date reviewed and approved by the Authorizer, ADP will pay 100 percent of the manufacturer's invoice price in Canadian dollars up to a maximum of \$7,258.67.

715.02 Bone Anchored Hearing Aid (BAHA) Replacement Sound Processor

For Clients receiving social assistance benefits through OW, ODSP or ACSD as of the date reviewed and approved by the Authorizer, ADP will pay

100 percent of the manufacturer's invoice price in Canadian dollars up to a maximum of \$4,000 towards the sound processor only, 100 percent up to a maximum of \$5,200 toward the sound processor with abutment, or 100 percent up to a maximum of \$1,200 for the abutment only.

715.03 Teletypewriters (TTY) for the Deaf or Speech Impaired

For Clients receiving social assistance benefits through OW, ODSP or ACSD as of the date reviewed and approved by the Authorizer, ADP will pay:

100 percent up to a maximum of \$525 towards the cost of a printing TTY, 100 percent up to a maximum of \$325 for a non-printing TTY and 100 percent up to a maximum of \$66 towards the cost of the flashing signaling device.

720 Delivery of Device

The Vendor will provide the Authorized Device together with a fully itemized invoice to the Client, advise the Client regarding the warranty and after-purchase services offered, and provide a copy of the manufacturer's warranty and user manual for the Device.

In addition to the above, Hearing aid Vendors will ensure that the Client is provided with a minimum 30-day trial period (in writing) to test the suitability of the hearing aid(s)/FM system.

725 Expiry Date of the Application for Funding Hearing Devices

The Application Form is considered current and valid for one (1) year from the Authorizer assessment date.

Note: The expiry date will **NOT** be extended. After the expiry date, a new assessment must be completed and a new Application Form must be submitted to the Program.

730 Hearing Aids/FM System Dispensing Fee Charges

If the dispenser is a member of the College of Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists of Ontario (CASLPO), the Applicant cannot be charged

more than the Ontario Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists (OSLA) recommended dispensing fee listed in the OSLA Suggested Fee Schedule.

If the dispenser is a member of the Association of Hearing Instrument Practitioners of Ontario (AHIP), the Applicant cannot be charged more than the AHIP recommended dispensing fee listed in the AHIP Recommended Fee Guide.

The only exception to this policy, for both members of CASLPO and members of AHIP, is if the Vendor notifies the Applicant in writing in advance and the Applicant agrees in writing. The Vendor must also make a special notation on the ADP invoice and Applicant's invoice informing the Applicant of the amount charged above the recommended fee guide.

735 Pricing of Other Items

For earmolds, Vendors are encouraged to charge no more than the amounts listed in the respective professional association fee guide.

If the Vendor invoices the Applicant an amount in excess of the applicable fee guide, the Vendor must make a special notation on the ADP invoice and the Applicant's invoice, in writing, for each item, informing the Applicant of the amount charged above the applicable professional association fee guide.

For items such as audiometric fees, service fees, options/accessories, parts list and service agreements, ADP strongly recommends that Vendors charge no more than the applicable professional association fee guide.

Invoicing Procedures

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Part 8: Invoicing Procedures

800 Invoice Processing

Refer to the ADP Manual, Part 9, Invoicing Processing and Payment, for details.

Note: ADP Vendors for hearing Devices are not required to submit the invoice. The original invoice is kept in the Applicant's file together with a copy of the Application Form. The Program may request a copy of the invoice.

805 ADP Processing Errors

In the event of an ADP processing error being identified following funding approval, the ADP will co-operate with the Authorizer, Vendor and Client to make any necessary corrections.

The Vendor must notify the ADP in writing of the error(s) along with a request for the approval to be amended.

810 Authorizer Errors & Omissions

In the event of an Authorizer error and/or omission being identified following funding approval, the ADP will co-operate with the Authorizer to make any necessary corrections.

The Authorizer must return a copy of the Application Form to the ADP with the errors highlighted along with a request for the approval to be amended.

815 Applicant Return of Hearing Devices

If the Applicant returns the hearing Device and does not get another one before the end of the trial period, the Vendor must reimburse the Applicant any amounts paid minus a reasonable handling fee, if applicable, and reimburse the Ministry any funding contributions paid to the Vendor.

The credit note must be issued within 15 days from the date the Applicant returns the hearing Device and sent to:

Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
Financial Management Branch, Program Payments
P.O. Box 48
49 Place D'Armes, 2nd Floor
Kingston, Ontario K7L 5J3

820 Update Policy

If the Applicant returns the hearing Device and gets another within the trial period, the Vendor must ensure that ADP receives a written update regarding the Applicant's hearing Device substitution. The update must be signed by the Authorizer confirming the substitution.

Send the update to:

Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
Assistive Devices Program
5700 Yonge St. 7th Floor
Toronto, ON M2M 4K5

Authorizers

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Part 9: Authorizers

900 Authorizer Status

Audiologists wishing to be registered with the Program for Hearing Aids, Cochlear Implant Replacement Speech Processors or BAHA Replacement Sound Processors must meet the requirements for the respective type of Device. Hearing instrument specialists wishing to be registered with the Program for Hearing Aids must meet the requirements for Hearing Aids.

905 Requirements for Authorizer Status

905.01 Hearing Aids: Children (18 Years of Age or Younger)

An Audiologist who holds a valid certificate of registration from the College of Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists of Ontario (CASLPO) and licensed to practise in Ontario.

905.02 Hearing Aids: Adults (19 Years of Age or Older)

- An Audiologist who holds a valid certificate of registration from the College of Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists of Ontario (CASLPO) and licensed to practise in Ontario.
- A hearing instrument specialist who can provide:
 - Proof of successful completion of a hearing instrument specialist program in Ontario that is recognized by the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities and
 - Proof of successful completion of an apprenticeship program consisting of a minimum of 1000 supervised internship hours

approved by the Association of Hearing Instrument Practitioners of Ontario (AHIP) and

- Proof that he/she is a practicing member in good standing of AHIP.
- A person other than (a) or (b) who has passed the ADP Level II (Authorizer) exams and was grandfathered into the hearing aid category as an Authorizer and
 - Proof that he/she is a practicing member in good standing of AHIP.

905.03 **Who Can Authorize FM Systems**

Only Authorizers for Hearing Aids who are Audiologists can authorize FM systems.

905.04 **Cochlear Implant Replacement Speech Processors**

An Audiologist who:

- holds a valid certificate of registration from the College of Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists of Ontario (CASLPO) and licensed to practise in Ontario; and
- is employed at a hospital with a dedicated cochlear implant program; and
- has received relevant training (including manufacturer training); and
- has experience working with cochlear implant devices and working with cochlear implant recipients.

905.05 **Bone Anchored Hearing Aid (BAHA) Replacement Sound Processors**

An Audiologist who:

- holds a valid certificate of registration from the College of Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists of Ontario (CASLPO) and licensed to practise in Ontario; and

- has received relevant training (including manufacturer training); and
- has experience working with BAHA devices and working with BAHA recipients.

905.06 **Teletypewriters (TTY) for the Deaf or Speech Impaired**

For Persons Who Are Deaf

An Audiologist who holds a valid certificate of registration from the College of Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists of Ontario (CASLPO) and licensed to practise in Ontario, and who is registered as an Authorizer for Hearing Aids.

For Persons Who Are Speech Impaired

A Speech-Language Pathologist who holds a valid certificate of registration from the College of Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists of Ontario (CASLPO) and licensed to practise in Ontario, and who is registered as an Authorizer for Communication Aids.

910 General Authorizer Policies

Detailed information about Authorizer registration, policies and procedures, are found in the ADP Manual, Part 4, General Authorizer and Vendor Policies and Part 5, Authorizers.

Vendors

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Part 10: Vendors

1000 Vendors Status

Vendors wishing to submit a request for funding to the Ministry for hearing Devices must be registered as Vendors for the appropriate category of hearing Devices. There are four separate categories of hearing Devices

- Bone Anchored Hearing Aid (BAHA) Replacement Sound Processor
- Cochlear Implant Replacement Speech Processor
- Hearing Aids
- Teletypewriters for the Deaf or Speech Impaired

Vendors applying for registration status must be active retailers. Vendors must complete the Vendor application package and return it to the Program together with the required documentation/attachments.

1000.01 **Manufacturers as Vendors (Hearing Aids)**

New and existing manufacturers operating as Vendors must demonstrate an ability to meet the requirements of Policies 600 and 605 in the ADP Manual.

Despite Policy 605 in the ADP manual, any manufacturer may apply for Vendor registration status for hearing aids.

1005 Staffing Requirements for Vendors

1005.01 Hearing Aids – Dispensers and Equipment Requirements

Vendors must employ a minimum of one dispenser to provide the hearing aid fittings and dispense FM systems for Applicants. The dispenser must be one of the following:

A person who is:

- A successful graduate of a hearing instrument specialist program in Ontario that is recognized by the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities and A practicing membership in good standing of the Association of Hearing Instrument Practitioners of Ontario (AHIP).
- An Audiologist who holds a valid certificate of registration from the College of Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists of Ontario (CASLPO) and licensed to practise in Ontario.
- A graduate of the former George Brown College Hearing Instrument Dispenser Program who is a practicing member in good standing of the Association of Hearing Instrument Practitioners of Ontario (AHIP).
- A graduate of the former Sheridan College Hearing Aid Specialist Program who is a practicing member in good standing of the Association of Hearing Instrument Practitioners of Ontario (AHIP).
- A person who passed the ADP Level I (dispenser) exam who is a practicing member in good standing of the Association of Hearing Instrument Practitioners of Ontario (AHIP). Applies to grandfathered dispensers only.

Equipment Requirements for Dispensers:

The following minimum dispensing equipment must be used by dispensers for cleaning, servicing and testing hearing aids and earmolds:

- A stethoscope
- An otoscope
- A high speed dremel-type drill, and
- Heating and modifying tools

The following are recommended and encouraged:

- An electroacoustic hearing aid analyzer, and
- An ultrasonic cleaner

1005.02 Cochlear Implant Replacement Speech Processors

Vendors must employ individuals with training and experience working with the Devices and working with cochlear implant recipients.

1005.03 Bone Anchored Hearing Aid (BAHA) Replacement Sound Processors

Vendors must employ individuals with training and experience working with the Devices and working with BAHA recipients.

1005.04 Teletypewriters (TTY) for the Deaf or Speech Impaired

Vendors must employ individuals who are knowledgeable about the makes and models of TTYs and flashing signaling devices, can demonstrate the devices to individuals (explain how they work and the different features) and have experience working with deaf/hearing impaired and/or speech impaired individuals.

1010 Additional Requirements – Hearing Aid Vendors

Hearing Aid Vendors must:

- Dispense a minimum of four different manufacturers brands of hearing aids listed in the Hearing Aids Product Manual.
- Ensure that after the hearing aids and/or FM systems are dispensed, the Applicants are provided with a minimum 30-day trial period (in writing) to test the suitability of the hearing aids/ FM systems.
- Notify the Program “Registration Unit” in writing within ten days of an employee who is an Authorizer ceasing to be an employee and a person who is an Authorizer becoming an employee.

1015 General Vendor Policies

Detailed information about Vendor registration and policies and procedures is found in the ADP Manual in the following areas:

- Part 4, General Authorizer and Vendor Policies;
- Part 6, Vendors;
- Part 7, Personal Health Information, and
- Part 9, Invoice Processing and Payment.

Note in Particular:

- i. Policy 405, Conflict of Interest
- ii. Policy 415, Advertising

- iii. Policy 420, Referrals
- iv. Policy 600, Applying for Registration – New Vendor
- v. Policy 601, Applying for Registration – Additional Vendor Location or Additional Category of Devices
- vi. Policy 602, Maintaining Registration as a Vendor
- vii. Policy 615, Relationships of Hospitals and Vendors
- viii. Policy 620, Vendors Sharing Proceeds with Long-Term Care Homes
- ix. Policy 640, Informing Persons of the Program
- x. Policy 660, Refusal to Supply for Safety Reasons
- xi. Policy 665, Warranties of Purchased Devices
- xii. Policy 670, Repairs of Purchased Devices
- xiii. Policy 700, Protection of Personal and Personal Health information
- xiv. Policy 905, Rebates

The ADP Manual is available at:

http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/adp/policies_procedures_manuals/docs/pp_adp_manual.pdf