

State of Vermont: Hearing Aids Coverage
State of Vermont Hearing Aid Benefit - Effective 1/1/23

Summary: Effective 1/1/2023 active and retired employees enrolled in State of VT medical plans will have hearing aids covered at \$1500 per ear every 60 months

Questions	Answers
Will the benefit cover these office visits? * Examinations for the prescription or fitting of hearing aids * Adjustments to current hearing aids	Yes. The benefit will fall under your usual copay or cost-share for a specialist visit.
Will the benefit cover over-the-counter hearing aids and/or out-of-network providers?	Yes. Members will submit a claim for reimbursement for hearing aids purchased out-of-network
Does the new benefit apply to both plans (Select Care and Total Choice)?	Yes
Active and retirees?	Yes
Does the State of Vermont health plan cover hearing examinations?	Yes. The Plan covers a screening test for hearing in conjunction with a preventive medicine evaluation and management service when done in accordance with current American Academy of Pediatrics, American Academy of Family Practice, and/or Bright Futures guidelines. Audiometric studies may be medically necessary in illnesses or injuries including, but not limited to, the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hearing loss; • Otitis media; • Meniere's disease; • Labyrinthitis; • Vertigo (dizziness); • Tinnitus; • Cochlear otosclerosis; • Neoplasms of the auditory or central nervous system; • Congenital anomalies; • Surgery involving the auditory and/or central nervous system, e.g., skull-based tumors such as acoustic neuroma and meningioma; • Facial nerve paralysis (Bell's palsy); • Bacterial meningitis; • Exposure to intense noise;
Are hearing aid batteries and other supplies covered?	No. The \$1500 per ear limit is exclusively for the hearing aids.
If I am on the TotalChoice plan, does the deductible/cost-share apply to hearing aids?	Yes. Hearing aids would fall under the Medical Equipment cost-share, which is the deductible plus 20% cost-share.
What is the limit on the benefit?	\$1500 per ear every 60 months.
Is prior approval required?	No.
Do I need to use an approved DME provider or audiologist?	No. The hearing aids may be obtained over the counter or online from retail suppliers.
Does the benefit include assistive listening devices?	No