

## Bone-Anchored Hearing Aid (BAHA)

### MPM 2.9

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**Disclaimer** Refer to the member's specific benefit plan and *Schedule of Benefits* to determine coverage. This may not be a benefit on all plans or the plan may have broader or more limited benefits than those listed in these criteria.

**Description** Bone-anchored Hearing Aids (BAHAs) transmit sound vibrations to the inner ear by direct bone conduction through the skull. A BAHA is used when hearing aids are medically inappropriate or cannot be utilized due to congenital ear malformations, chronic middle ear disease, severe unilateral sensorineural hearing loss or post acoustic neuroma surgery.

**Coverage Determination** **Benefit certification is not required. However, all claims are subject to retrospective review.**

A bone-anchored hearing aid is covered for the following indications:

1. Moderate to severe conductive or mixed hearing loss (unilateral or bilateral), where the patient can still benefit from sound amplification  
**or**  
Unilateral sensorineural deafness, i.e., single-sided deafness

**AND**

2. **One** of the following conditions must be present:

- Congenital or surgically induced ear malformations, where cochlear function is good, but there are no ear canals; **or**.
- Chronic middle ear disease, or chronic draining ears, where the use of a conventional hearing aid causes problems such as feedback, poor wearing comfort, poor sound quality or aggravation of infection; **or**
- Tumors of the external ear or tympanic cavity; **or**
- Conductive hearing loss due to ossicular disease where the patient is not appropriate for surgical correction or conventional hearing aids do not work.

This technology has been reviewed and approved by the Technology Assessment Committee and the Medical Policy Committee (formerly known as the Benefit Interpretation Committee).

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**Medical Terms**

Conductive hearing loss: Occurs when sound is not conducted efficiently through the outer ear canal to the eardrum and the tiny bones, or ossicles, of the middle ear. Conductive hearing loss usually involves a reduction in sound level, or the ability to hear faint sounds. This type of hearing loss can often be medically or surgically corrected.

Sensorineural hearing loss: Occurs when there is damage to the inner ear (cochlea) or to the nerve pathways from the inner ear (retrocochlear) to the brain. Sensorineural hearing loss cannot be medically or surgically corrected. It is a permanent loss. Sensorineural hearing loss not only involves a reduction in sound level, or ability to hear faint sounds, but also affects speech understanding, or ability to hear clearly.

Mixed hearing loss: A conductive hearing loss occurs in combination with a sensorineural hearing loss.

**Coding**

**The coding listed in this medical policy is for reference only. Covered and non-covered codes are within this list.**

<b>CPT Codes</b>	<b>Description</b>
69714	Implantation, osseointegrated implant, temporal bone, with percutaneous attachment to external speech processor/cochlear stimulator; without mastoidectomy
69715	Implantation, osseointegrated implant, temporal bone, with percutaneous attachment to external speech processor/cochlear stimulator; with mastoidectomy
69717	Replacement (including removal of existing device), osseointegrated implant, temporal bone, with percutaneous attachment to external speech processor/cochlear stimulator; without mastoidectomy
69718	Replacement (including removal of existing device), osseointegrated implant, temporal bone, with percutaneous attachment to external speech processor/cochlear stimulator; with mastoidectomy.
L8690	Auditory osseointegrated device, includes all internal and external components
L8691	Auditory osseointegrated device, external sound processor, replacement

<b>ICD-9© Diagnosis Codes</b>	<b>Description</b>
160.1	Malignant neoplasm of auditory tube, middle ear, and mastoid air cells
216.2	Benign neoplasm of ear and external auditory canal

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ICD-9© Diagnosis Codes	Description
380.15	Chronic mycotic otitis externa
380.16	Other chronic infective otitis externa
380.23	Other chronic otitis externa
380.52	Acquired stenosis of external ear canal secondary to surgery
380.9	Unspecified disorder of external ear
380.10	Chronic serous otitis media, simple or unspecified
380.19	Other chronic serous otitis media (serosanguinous chronic otitis media)
381.20	Chronic mucoid otitis media, simple or unspecified
381.29	Other chronic mucoid otitis media (mucosanguinous chronic otitis media)
381.3	Other and unspecified chronic nonsuppurative otitis media
382.0	Acute suppurative otitis media
382.00	Acute suppurative otitis media without spontaneous rupture of ear drum
382.01	Acute suppurative otitis media with spontaneous rupture of ear drum
382.02	Acute suppurative otitis media in diseases classified elsewhere
382.1	Chronic tubotympanic suppurative otitis media
382.2	Chronic atticoantral suppurative otitis media
382.3	Unspecified chronic suppurative otitis media
382.4	Unspecified suppurative otitis media
382.9	Unspecified otitis media
387.0	Otosclerosis involving oval window, nonobliterative
387.1	Otosclerosis involving oval window, obliterative
387.2	Cochlear otosclerosis
387.9	Unspecified otosclerosis
388.12	Noise-induced hearing loss
389.00	Unspecified conductive hearing loss
389.01	Conductive hearing loss, external ear
389.02	Conductive hearing loss, tympanic membrane

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ICD-9© Diagnosis Codes	Description
389.03	Conductive hearing loss, middle ear
389.04	Conductive hearing loss, inner ear
389.08	Conductive hearing loss, combined hearing loss of combined types
389.10	Unspecified sensorineural hearing loss
389.11	Sensory hearing loss, bilateral
389.12	Neural hearing loss, bilateral
389.14	Central hearing loss, bilateral
389.15	Sensorineural hearing loss, unilateral
389.16	Sensorineural hearing loss, asymmetrical
389.18	Sensorineural hearing loss of combined types, bilateral
389.2	Mixed conductive and sensorineural hearing loss
389.20	Mixed hearing loss, unspecified
389.21	Mixed hearing loss, unilateral
389.22	Mixed hearing loss, bilateral
389.7	Deaf mutism, not elsewhere classified
389.9	Unspecified hearing loss
744.01	Congenital absence of external ear causing impairment of hearing
744.02	Other congenital anomaly of external ear causing impairment of hearing
744.03	Congenital anomaly of middle ear, except ossicles, causing impairment of hearing
744.04	Congenital anomalies of ear ossicles
744.23	Microtia

**Reviewed by:** Karl L. Horn, MD. Ear Associates, P.C. Albuquerque, NM. November, 2008.

**References:**

- Hayes Medical Technology Directory. ©2008 Winifred S. Hayes, Inc. Bone-Anchored Hearing Aids. Published 6-3-05. Update search 11-07.
- Federal Drug Administration. Summary of Safety and Effectiveness, BAHA® Divino™, K042017. August 26, 2004.
- Federal Drug Administration. 510(k) Summary, BAHA® Intenso™, K081606. August 28, 2008.

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4. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. CMS Manual System, Pub 100-02 Medicare Benefit Policy. Transmittal 39. Change Request 4038. November 10, 2005.
5. American Speech-Language Hearing Association. Type, Degree and Configuration of Hearing Loss. Accessed 12-29-08 at:  
<http://www.asha.org/public/hearing/disorders/types.htm>

**Approval  
Signatures:****Clinical Quality Committee:** \_\_\_\_\_ Mark Whitaker, MD**Medical Director:** \_\_\_\_\_ Albert Rizzoli, MD**Date:** 01-19-11**Publication  
History**

05-22-06: Original Benefit/Technology Alert effective date  
10-04-07: Transition to Medical Policy  
01-28-09: Annual review and revision  
01-19-11: Biennial Review

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This Medical Policy is intended to represent clinical guidelines describing medical appropriateness and is developed to assist Presbyterian Health Plan and Presbyterian Insurance Company, Inc. (Presbyterian) Health Services staff and Presbyterian medical directors in determination of coverage. The Medical Policy is not a treatment guide and should not be used as such.

For those instances where a member does not meet the criteria described in these guidelines, additional information supporting medical necessity is welcome and may be utilized by the medical director in reviewing the case. Please note that all Presbyterian Medical Policies are available online at:  
<http://www.phs.org/resources/documents/HLTHCRIT.pdf>.