



Hearing Aid Services Management

Key Changes

The table below summarises the changes for the new Hearing Aid Services. If you have further queries a copy of the Hearing Aid Services Notice [2011] is available on our website: www.accessable.co.nz/hearing Queries can also be directed to hearing@accessable.co.nz

Subject	Context	Detail
Overview	Main changes to the current services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The main changes are outlined in the Hearing Aid Services Notice 2011 and summarised below. • Introduces a single national contract for managing Ministry of Health Hearing Aid Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hearing Aid Funding Scheme which includes the Children’s Hearing Aid fund and hearing aids funded through the Equipment and Modifications Services scheme ○ Hearing Aid Subsidy Scheme
Children's Hearing Aids	Applications for hearing aids for children are now part of the Hearing Aid Funding Scheme (except repairs for children)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eligibility changes to no more than 3 replacement hearing aids per ear for children within 6 years • The repairs process for Children's hearing aids continues to be through the Deaf Education Centres • Accessory (eg moulds, domes, tubes) replacement for children are included in the Hearing Aid Funding Scheme repairs process
Trials and Payments	<p>Payments to the manufacturers for hearing aids provided through the Hearing Aid Funding Scheme.</p> <p>Payment to Audiology Providers for repairs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audiologists no longer have to manage cashflow responsibility for hearing aids • The manufacturers will invoice accessable as soon as trial hearing aids are sent to an audiologist • The process for trial approval/invoice/credit/re-invoice treats each hearing aid trial as unique, until appropriate hearing aids are finalised. Each trial must be completed within manufacturer’s guidelines. • Payment for Subsidy claims will continue to be made to Audiology Providers

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Repairs	Repairs are only funded where the application is for a currently eligible person	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding is only available for the manufacturer's costs of the repair • Audiologists are responsible to ensure that hearing aids are not covered under warranty • Pre-approval of repairs to \$235 excl. GST per aid per 2 years • An application form for repairs should be sent with the accompanying Audiology Provider invoice and manufacturer's quote • For repairs over \$235 or collectively accumulating to >\$235 for an eligible person prior approval is required from accessible before the repair is started
Ministry of Health Approved Hearing Aid List	Hearing aids selected must be from the Ministry of Health's Approved Hearing Aid List	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University of Auckland – Audiology receives information about new products and approves List additions • Manufacturers send accessible the approval information to update the list every quarter • The first update will be published 1st August 2011 then quarterly • An interim list will be available from 1st July 2011 • For Funding Applications and Subsidy Claims, the hearing aids selected must be from the Ministry of Health Approved Hearing Aid List
Ministry of Health Average Price Target	Introduction of average price target	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ministry is introducing an average price target to more effectively manage future cost growth for hearing aids • The average price target is measured across all hearing aids each audiology provider recommends for its clients who are eligible for hearing aids to be provided through the Hearing Aid Funding Scheme • The target does not include monitoring of the price of hearing aids for people who are eligible for the hearing aid subsidy of \$444.44 (excluding GST)
Reporting to Audiology Providers	Key performance reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primarily this will be measuring current practice against the average price target
Reporting to manufacturers	Reporting on Manufacturer activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Market share and average price
Client details	NHI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NHI numbers are compulsory for inclusion on the forms for both schemes
Process	The appointment of a national Hearing Aid Services Manager results in common processes and efficiencies for all.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • accessible is introducing process flow charts which will be available on the website www.accessable.co.nz/hearing • The processes will be included in the Hearing Aid Services Manual