

LGC HealthTrust Extends Hearing Aid Benefits to Adults

Hearing aid coverage for adults was extended for January Risk Pool Groups beginning **January 1, 2011**; coverage for July Risk Pool Groups begins **July 1, 2011**. This coverage applies only to LGC Risk Pool Groups with non-grandfathered plan coverage and is not applicable to Medicomp Three plans.

Previously, hearing aid coverage applied only to dependent children 18 years old or younger. Benefits for hearing exams for the treatment of ear disease or injury will continue to be covered for adults and children.

Hearing aid benefits will include coverage for one initial hearing aid per ear and each time a prescription changes. Hearing aids are generally covered as durable medical equipment and subject to the same referral guidelines (if applicable) and enrollee cost share.

Most importantly, benefits for hearing aids are limited to the Maximum Allowable Benefit (MAB) for the least expensive medically necessary hearing aid. MAB is the amount the plan contract allows for a particular service in a geographical area. If the hearing aid is more costly than is medical necessary, it is the patient's responsibility to pay the provider the difference between the MAB for the least expensive hearing aid and the charge for the more expensive service. **The difference in cost may be substantial; patients should always discuss their options and cost share in advance with the provider.**

Below is other important information about hearing aid benefits and hearing provider services:

- Hearing aids must be ordered in advance by the physician and furnished by a Network Provider; otherwise, only out-of-network benefits (if applicable) are available.
- Hearing aids must be prescribed, fitted, serviced and dispensed by a licensed audiologist or other Network Provider who is a hearing instrument dispenser or other hearing care professional; otherwise, no benefits are available.

To locate a provider, visit [Anthem](#) and click on "Find A Doctor."

Enrollees will receive updated benefit and coverage information in the Subscriber Certificates being issued in the coming months.

Enrollees inquiring about benefits and coverage details should contact Anthem directly at the number on the back of their medical ID card. LGC's Enrollee Services representatives are also available by calling 800.527.5001.