

Information Bulletin

February 5, 2019

Attention: Hearing Aid Providers (HAP) in BC & Hearing Aid Providers Out-of-Province (HAP OOP)

Subject: Purchasing Hearing Aid(s) Prior to a Claim Decision – Timeline

Injured Workers may choose to purchase Hearing Aid(s) prior to a claim decision. In these circumstances you are required to:

- Encourage the worker to **wait and see** if their claim application is approved or denied.
- If the worker insists on purchasing Hearing Aid(s), document the Injured Workers **informed consent** including the *possible* reimbursement outcomes.
- If a claim is **accepted within one year of the Hearing Aid(s) purchase** and the Hearing Aid(s) are **on the WorkSafeBC Price Grid**, reimburse the worker the **full amount** paid to you for the Hearing Aid(s) and the Hearing Aid(s) service fees. Contact the Manufacturer ***immediately*** and request reimbursement and ask the manufacturer to bill WorkSafeBC directly. Invoice WorkSafeBC for the Fitting Fee and any other applicable fees as per fee schedule.
- If a claim is **accepted within one year of the Hearing Aid(s) purchase** and the Hearing Aid(s) are **not on the WorkSafeBC Price Grid**, reimburse the worker the amount paid to you for the Hearing Aid(s) and the Hearing Aid(s) fitting service fees **EXCEPT** the difference between the manufacturers cost of the Hearing Aid(s) and the Hearing Aid Price Cap (Maximum \$700). Contact the Manufacturer ***immediately*** to inform them of the Cost Share Arrangement.

Invoice WorkSafeBC the Cost Share Arrangement using Fee Code 19695 which includes the fitting fee and the hearing aid price cap. **Do not** bill WorkSafeBC the fitting fee or hearing aid price cap separately in addition to the Cost Share Arrangement fee code.

Note: Sivantos and Widex have some hearing aids on the grid that are available to Injured Workers at less than the grid price of \$700.00. If dispensing a Level 3 technology Hearing Aid(s) from Sivantos please use \$606.00 (Hearing Aid Provision) PLUS \$503.00 Fitting Fee = \$1109.00 as the amount invoiced for the Cost Share Arrangement Fee.

If dispensing a Level 220 Hearing Aid(s) from Widex please use \$656.00 (Hearing Aid Provision) PLUS \$503.00 = \$1159.00 as the amount invoiced for the Cost Share Arrangement Fee.

- If the claim is **denied** the worker is responsible for the costs associated with the hearing aid(s).

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

For more information about other health care programs at WorkSafeBC, visit us online at <https://www.worksafebc.com/en/health-care-providers>