GUIDELINES
This policy does not certify benefits or authorization of benefits, which is designated by each individual policyholder contract. Paramount applies coding edits to all medical claims through coding logic software to evaluate the accuracy and adherence to accepted national standards. This guideline is solely for explaining correct procedure reporting and does not imply coverage and reimbursement.

DESCRIPTION
The bone-anchored hearing aid (BAHA), also called temporal bone osseointegrated implant, is an auditory prosthetic which can be surgically implanted. The BAHA uses the skull as a pathway for sound to travel to the inner ear. For people with conductive losses, the BAHA bypasses the external auditory canal and middle ear, stimulating the functioning cochlea. For people with unilateral hearing loss, the BAHA uses the skull to conduct the sound from the deaf side to the side with the functioning cochlea.

The BAHA system is composed of three main components;
- An internal titanium fixture that is surgically anchored to the skull in an area behind the ear
- An external abutment that is connected to the implant at the time of surgery
- An external sound processor that is snapped on to the abutment

The BAHA uses the skull as a pathway for sound to travel to the inner ear. The sound processor vibrates the implant, which in turn vibrates the temporal bone. That vibration is then transmitted through other bones to the cochlea of the opposite ear, where it creates the sensation of sound. BAHA is intended for use by patients who have conductive or mixed hearing loss.

There is no specific auditory therapy-testing specific to the BAHA. The audiologist will perform many of the standard audiometric function testing to evaluate the pre- and post-operative hearing levels.

Children under the age of five wear the BAHA device on a headband. The BAHA can be fit on a soft band as soon as the hearing loss has been diagnosed, reducing the auditory deprivation experienced by the child. The soft band, along with the headband, work like the conventional bone conductor. A BAHA can be worn on a soft band until the implant surgery is scheduled and the child is over the age of five as FDA approved.

POLICY
Bone-anchored hearing aids require prior authorization for all product lines.

HMO, PPO, Individual Marketplace, Elite, Advantage
Bone-anchored hearing aids are considered medically necessary devices for persons with unilateral or bilateral conductive or mixed hearing loss. It is also indicated for persons suffering from unilateral, single-sided deafness with appropriate hearing level in contralateral ear. Coverage is approved when any of the following conditions and all of the audiologic criteria is met:
1. Congenital or surgically induced malformations of the external ear canal or middle ear such as aural atresia; or
2. Tumors of the external ear canal and/or tympanic cavity; or
3. Severe chronic external otitis or otitis media; or
4. Hearing loss secondary to otosclerosis in persons who cannot undergo stapedectomy; or
5. Dermatitis of the external ear, including hypersensitivity reactions to ear moulds used in air conduction hearing aids; or
6. Other conditions in which an air-conduction hearing aid is contraindicated.

Audiologic Criteria:
1. Pure tone average bone conduction threshold of up to 70 dB; and
2. Speech discrimination score better than 60%.
Implants for children under the age of five (5) years are not FDA approved and are non-covered. As an alternative for children under the age of five (5) years old, Paramount will approve a soft band bone conducting hearing aid (L8692) if the above criteria are met.

**CODING/BILLING INFORMATION**

The appearance of a code in this section does not necessarily indicate coverage. Codes that are covered may have selection criteria that must be met. Payment for supplies may be included in payment for other services rendered.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HCPCS CODES</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>L8690</td>
<td>Auditory osseointegrated device, includes all internal and external components</td>
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<tr>
<td>L8691</td>
<td>Auditory osseointegrated device, external sound processor, replacement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L8692</td>
<td>Auditory osseointegrated device, external sound processor, used without osseointegration, body worn – includes headband or other means of external attachment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L8693</td>
<td>Auditory osseointegrated device abutment, any length, replacement only</td>
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<tr>
<th>CPT CODES</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>69710</td>
<td>Implantation or replacement of electromagnetic bone conduction hearing device in temporal bone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>69711</td>
<td>Removal or repair of electromagnetic bone conduction hearing device in temporal bone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>69714</td>
<td>Implantation, osseointegrated implant, temporal bone, with percutaneous attachment to external speech processor/cochlear stimulator; without mastoidectomy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>69715</td>
<td>Implantation, osseointegrated implant, temporal bone, with percutaneous attachment to external speech processor/cochlear stimulator; with</td>
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<tr>
<td>69717</td>
<td>Replacement (including removal of existing device), osseointegrated implant, temporal bone, with percutaneous attachment to external speech processor/cochlear stimulator; without mastoidectomy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>69718</td>
<td>Replacement (including removal of existing device), osseointegrated implant, temporal bone, with percutaneous attachment to external speech processor/cochlear stimulator; with mastoidectomy</td>
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**REVISION HISTORY EXPLANATION**

06/01/10: Updated
10/24/14: Policy reviewed and updated to reflect most current clinical evidence per TAWG.
08/20/15: Bone-anchored hearing aids now require prior authorization for PPO. Policy reviewed and updated to reflect most current clinical evidence per TAWG.
08/26/16: Policy reviewed and updated to reflect most current clinical evidence per TAWG.

**REFERENCES/RESOURCES**

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, CMS Manual System and other CMS publications and services
Ohio Department of Medicaid [http://jfs.ohio.gov/](http://jfs.ohio.gov/)
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System, HCPCS Release and Code Sets
Industry Standard Review
Hayes, Inc.