



January 13, 2017

# Montana Healthcare Programs Notice

## Audiology, Hearing Aid, and Physician

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### Audiology Referrals and Physician Authorization for Hearing Aids

This notice is to remind providers of existing policies for audiology and hearing aid services.

In accordance with Administrative Rules of Montana ([ARM](#)) [37.86.702\(3\)](#) and [\(5\)](#):

Audiology services may be provided to a member only upon a current written or verbal order or referral by a physician or mid-level practitioner. All verbal orders or referrals must be followed up by a written order received by the provider within 30 days of the verbal order or referral.

- (a) The provider is not entitled to Medicaid reimbursement if services are provided prior to actual receipt of the written or verbal order or referral. Referrals and orders are valid for Medicaid purposes for no more than 90 days.

The audiology services must be required as preliminary steps to obtaining a medically necessary hearing aid or device for the recipient.

In accordance with Administrative Rules of Montana ([ARM](#)) [37.86.802\(3\)](#):

A hearing aid may be covered under the Medicaid program if:

- (a) The member has been referred by a physician or mid-level practitioner for an audiological examination and the physician or mid-level practitioner has determined that there is no medical reason for which a hearing aid would not be effective in correcting the recipient's hearing loss.

**Note:** The referral must indicate that an audiological evaluation would be medically appropriate to evaluate the member's hearing loss.

### Contact Information

If you have any questions regarding the above requirement please contact Dani Feist, DME Program Officer at 406-444-5296 or via email at [dfeist@mt.gov](mailto:dfeist@mt.gov).

For claims questions or additional information, contact Provider Relations at 1-800-624-3958 (toll-free, in/out of state) or 406-442-1837 (Helena) or via e-mail at [MTPRHelpdesk@xerox.com](mailto:MTPRHelpdesk@xerox.com).

Visit the Montana Healthcare Programs Provider Information website at <http://medicaidprovider.mt.gov/>.