



MEDICAL ASSISTANCE BULLETIN

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA • DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

ISSUE DATE	EFFECTIVE DATE	NUMBER
March 1, 2007	March 1, 2007	*See Below
SUBJECT		BY
Provider Specialty 220 (Hearing Aid Dispenser) Requirement		 Michael Nardone, Acting Deputy Secretary Office of Medical Assistance Programs

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this bulletin is to notify physicians, audiologists, outpatient hospital clinics, pharmacies and medical suppliers that Provider Specialty 220 (hearing aid dispenser) will be required when enrolling in the Medical Assistance (MA) Program to provide and bill for hearing aid supplies.

SCOPE:

This bulletin applies to all physicians, audiologists, outpatient hospital clinics, pharmacies and medical suppliers dispensing hearing aid supplies to MA recipients in the fee-for-service delivery system and the managed care delivery system.

BACKGROUND:

In accordance with the provisions of the Hearing Aid Sales Registration Law, Act of November 24, 1976, (P.L.1182, No. 262), as amended by the Act of December 21, 1998, (P.L. 1190, No. 153), providers who are hearing aid dispensers, are required to obtain a Department of Health (DOH) certification. This certification must be renewed annually, and, as stated in Pa. Code Title 28, Health and Safety Regulations, a registrant may apply to renew their certification by March 16 prior to the certificate's expiration of April 15.

In addition, as stated in MA Bulletin 01-94-08, et.al. titled "Audiological Services", a current DOH certification is required to be enrolled in the MA Program as a hearing aid dispenser. A copy of the DOH certification must be attached to the MA Program enrollment application.

DISCUSSION:

Currently, Provider Specialty 220 is only available for enrolled audiologists and medical suppliers. Effective March 1, 2007, Provider Specialty 220 will also be available for

*01-07-03 20-07-02 24-07-01 25-07-01 31-07-02

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS BULLETIN SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:

The appropriate toll-free number for your provider type.
Visit the Office of Medical Assistance Programs website at www.dpw.state.pa.us/omap

physicians, outpatient hospital clinics and pharmacies and must be added to their provider enrollment files according to the instructions outlined in the Procedure section of this bulletin, in order for these providers to bill the MA Program for hearing aid supplies.

March 1, 2007 through July 31, 2007:

Effective March 1, 2007, through July 31, 2007, claims submitted for hearing aid supplies by physicians, audiologists, outpatient hospital clinics, pharmacies and medical suppliers without Provider Specialty 220 will be processed and paid as usual. During this time, a request to add Provider Specialty 220 and a current DOH certification must be submitted to MA Provider Enrollment. In addition, upon the annual renewal of the DOH certification, a copy of the renewed certification must be submitted to MA Provider Enrollment. Please refer to the instructions outlined in the Procedure section of this bulletin.

August 1, 2007 and forward:

Effective August 1, 2007, claims for hearing aid supplies submitted by those providers without Provider Specialty 220 and a current DOH certification will deny. Further, a retroactive recovery will be initiated for claims paid to providers during the period of March 1, 2007, through July 31, 2007, who do not have a current DOH certification and the corresponding Specialty 220 on their provider file. Please note that prior authorization for hearing aid supplies does not guarantee payment of claims if the provider does not have a current DOH certification and the corresponding Provider Specialty 220 on their provider file.

PROCEDURE:

Please follow the instructions outlined below for adding Provider Specialty 220 to your provider file. Failure to submit proof of DOH certification and yearly renewals may result in claim denials and inability to bill for hearing aid supplies.

Current Providers

If you are currently enrolled as an audiologist, physician, outpatient hospital clinic, pharmacy or medical supplier and you provide and bill for hearing aid supplies, you must submit a copy of your current DOH certification with a letter requesting that the Department of Public Welfare (Department) add Provider Specialty 220 (hearing aid dispenser) to the specific 13-digit PROMISe™ provider number.

This should be mailed to:

Department Of Public Welfare
Office of Medical Assistance Programs
Provider Enrollment
Attention: Specialty Update
P.O. BOX 8045
Harrisburg, PA 17105 -8045

Or faxed to:

Provider Enrollment
Attn: Specialty Update
717-772-6765

New Providers Submitting Enrollment Applications

Audiologists, physicians, outpatient hospital clinics, pharmacies or medical suppliers, not currently enrolled in MA, who are submitting applications for enrollment and who wish to be eligible to bill for hearing aid supplies must include a copy of their current DOH certification with their enrollment application.

MA Provider Enrollment will then add Provider Specialty 220 to the specified enrollment location for the time period of the certification for newly enrolled and currently enrolled audiologists, physicians, outpatient hospital clinics, pharmacies and medical suppliers. Providers should allow 30 days for the processing of this information.

DOH hearing aid dispensing certification renewals should be submitted to MA Provider Enrollment by June 1 each year in the manner described above. Failure to submit proof of renewed DOH certification may result in claim denials and inability to bill for hearing aid supplies.

Providers should also refer to MA Bulletin # 01-07-02, et.al, titled, "Medical Assistance Program Fee Schedule Procedure Code Changes for Hearing Aid Supplies" which included a crosswalk for providers detailing provider type and provider specialty combinations that are appropriate when billing for hearing aid supplies. However, because of the Provider Specialty 220 requirements that will be in place effective August 1, 2007, an updated MA bulletin with related information for Provider Specialty 220 will be issued prior to that time.