



# **PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA**

## ***Contract Health Services***

### **HEARING AID PLAN**

#### **BY REFERRAL:**

Hearing Aids require that a referral be submitted from the referring physician to the Contract Health Service program. Referral should contain medical justification for a hearing test and possible aid instrument(s). No appointments should be scheduled and obtained until the CHS department has given approval to do so.

#### **CONTRACT PROVIDER:** *(see provider list)*

Members will be required to utilize an approved Miracle Ear Provider. CHS has identified 8 providers throughout our service areas in which members may access.

#### **FREQUENCY:**

The frequency in obtaining hearing aids is limited to one pair every six years (maximum of 2 aids, one per ear) **OR** one hearing aid at one date (***for one ear***) and the second hearing aid at a later date (***for the other ear***), then the six year time period will be determined per aid and placement date.

#### **SERVICE PLAN:**

Miracle Ear 3100 includes:

- Testing, Exam, Molding, & lifetime aftercare and adjustments
- Any type of aid: Custom, Behind the ear, Receiver in the Canal
  - ✓ Aids are Fully Digital, Programmable, Wireless, Feedback reduction, Wind Noise reduction, Multi-Channel hearing instrument, 60 day trial period, 2 years of free batteries, repairs

#### **WARRANTY:**

Fully Comprehensive 3 year warranty with Loss and Damage coverage

- If the hearing aid(s) are lost or damaged beyond repair, the replacement cost/deductible is 25 % of the original cost.
- The patient will need to submit a letter from the provider stating that the hearing aid(s) are non-repairable and must be replaced.
- The replacement cost/deductible may be covered by Contract Health Services.
- One replacement per aid will be covered within the 3 year warranty period.

## **REPAIRS/REPLACEMENTS:**

Miracle Ear indicates that most aids *can be* repaired. Normal repairs do not cost anything within the first 3 years. After 3 years the warranty is no longer valid. Below are options relating to coverage for repair or replacement of hearing aids.

- In the case of repairs, CHS will pay 50% toward any necessary repairs. The patient is required to submit a letter from the provider stating the estimate cost for the repair. The repair coverage may only be used two (2) times following the warranty expiration.
- In the case of replacement, CHS will pay 50% toward the replacement. The patient will need to submit a letter from the provider stating that the hearing aid(s) are non-repairable and must be replaced. The replacement coverage can only be used one (1) time following the warranty expiration.

## **NON-COVERED**

### Batteries

- Life span of batteries is approximately 10-14 days
- Average cost of a battery replacement is \$.50 cents.
- The cost is approximately \$25.00 a year.

Please Note: In the case of an extenuating circumstance, the justification will be reviewed at the CHS Committee to determine medical necessity and possible coverage.