

PAYMENT SCHEDULE FOR HEARING AID PURCHASES

North Dakota Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) will apply the following rates when purchasing hearing aids for individuals receiving DVR services.

Level 1 Hearing Aid - Invoice price \$0 to \$500

Pay invoice price for the hearing aid and Medicaid rate for the dispensing fee. (The Medicaid rate for the dispensing fee is \$535.35 per aid effective July 1, 2017.)

Level 2 Hearing Aid - Invoice price greater than \$500

Pay invoice price for the hearing aid and \$911 per aid for the dispensing fee. When Medicaid rates increase, the \$911 will increase at the same percentage rate.

For All Purchases Related to Hearing Aids:

The service category listed on the IPE is Treatment/Restoration. On the authorization, the service category is Treatment/Restoration, Subcategory: Hearing Aids.

If the billed amount is less than the allowable amount, pay the billed amount.

Medicaid does not pay shipping costs, therefore DVR does not pay shipping costs for hearing aids, nor can the provider bill the consumer for the shipping cost.

The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation pays the Medicaid rate for ear molds. The Medicaid rate effective July 1, 2017 is \$66.99 per mold. The only exception for paying more than the Medicaid rate for ear molds is in cases when a power ear mold is dispensed which costs the vendor more than the Medicaid rate. In those cases, a vendor must provide a copy of the original invoice for the ear molds (from Starkey, Widex, ReSound, etc.) that documents their actual cost. In those cases, DVR will reimburse the vendor for the invoice cost of the ear mold.

If the client is responsible for 100% of the cost based on DVR's Client Financial Participation Worksheet, the client pays 100% of the audiologist's usual and customary fee.

If there is client participation in the cost, DVR pays 100% of the ear mold charges (the Medicaid rate). This eliminates any confusion as to whether or not the ear molds might be considered an assessment. On the invoice balance (aids, dispensing and add-ons), DVR pays their percent of the DVR rate and the client pays their percent of the DVR rate.

A catch-all code, V2567, may appear on a bill. This catch-all code indicates a "Hearing aid or assistive listening device (not otherwise specified)". The invoice is required to

determine what the item is. There is not a separate V code for Com Dex, Remote/RC-Dex, Phone Dex, TV Dex, T Dex, FM Dex, Call Dex, Uni Dex, and Mic as this technology is constantly changing as more devices are developed and added. If the invoice does not indicate what the item is, the provider must be contacted.

VR pays the invoice cost for a remote if it is required to adjust the hearing aids. When a Phone clip or a Com Pilot is dispensed rather than a simple remote, there must be a purpose directly related to employment to justify the additional expense.

A mic, com pilot, phone clip, etc., can be paid at the billed rate because they perform additional functions besides adjusting the hearing aids. For these items, there must be a purpose directly related to employment to justify the additional expense. These are all Bluetooth devices that are considered “add-ons” because they are a separate piece of technology not required for the hearing aid to work, but rather enhances the purpose of or boosts the efficiency of the hearing aid. The add-on communicates directly with the hearing aid and/or other Bluetooth devices to improve the quality and use of the hearing aid.

See the Operational Policy on hearing aids for additional information.

Notes:

- There was not a 2018 Durable Medical Equipment (DME) schedule published, since the rates remained the same from the July 1, 2017 schedule.
- The authorization and invoice must be submitted to the state designated DVR staff for review and approval prior to payment.
- The July 1, 2017 DME schedule shows \$1070.66 dispensing fee for binaural. This is the one-time Medicaid payment to dispense two hearing aids. The VR rate is \$911 per aid.
- The term ‘dispensing fee’ is synonymous with ‘fitting fee’.