MEDICAL POLICY – 7.01.03
Implantable Bone-Conduction and Bone-Anchored Hearing Aids

BCBSA Ref. Policy: 7.01.03
Effective Date: May 1, 2020
Last Revised: April 14, 2020
Replaces: 7.01.547

RELATED MEDICAL POLICIES:
1.01.528 Hearing Aids (Excludes Implantable Devices)

Select a hyperlink below to be directed to that section.

POLICY CRITERIA | DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS | CODING
RELATED INFORMATION | EVIDENCE REVIEW | REFERENCES | APPENDIX | HISTORY

∞ Clicking this icon returns you to the hyperlinks menu above.

Introduction

A typical hearing aid amplifies or increases sounds. If there are problems with the outer or middle ear, those problems could interfere with the sound waves traveling to the inner ear. A bone anchored hearing aid bypasses the outer and middle ear. A sound processor is worn near the ear and connects to a small implant. The implant is connected to the skull bone. The sound processor gathers sounds in the air and converts them into vibrations. The vibrations are sent through the implant into the skull bone. The skull bone naturally sends the vibrations to the inner ear. The inner ear is able to switch the vibrations into nerve signals, which the brain interprets as sound. This policy describes when bone anchored hearing aids may be considered medically necessary.

Note: The Introduction section is for your general knowledge and is not to be taken as policy coverage criteria. The rest of the policy uses specific words and concepts familiar to medical professionals. It is intended for providers. A provider can be a person, such as a doctor, nurse, psychologist, or dentist. A provider also can be a place where medical care is given, like a hospital, clinic, or lab. This policy informs them about when a service may be covered.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Medical Necessity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Unilateral conductive or mixed hearing loss | **A unilateral, fully or partially implantable bone conduction (bone-anchored) hearing aid may be considered medically necessary as an alternative to an air-conduction hearing aid in patients 5 years of age and older with conductive or mixed hearing loss when ONE of the following medical criteria is present:**  
  • Congenital or surgically induced malformations (eg, atresia) of the external ear canal or middle ear  
  OR  
  • Chronic external otitis or otitis media  
  OR  
  • Tumors of the external canal and/or tympanic cavity  
  OR  
  • Dermatitis of the external canal  
  **AND the following audiologic criterion is met:**  
  • A pure tone average bone-conduction threshold measured at 0.5, 1, 2, and 3 kHz (same as 500, 1,000, 2,000, and 3,000 Hz) of better than or equal to 45 dB (OBC and BP100 devices), 55 dB (Intenso™ device) or 65 dB (Cordele II™ device). |
| Bilateral conductive or mixed hearing loss | **Bilateral fully or partially implantable bone conduction (bone-anchored) hearing aid(s) may be considered medically necessary as an alternative to an air-conduction hearing aid in patients 5 years of age and older when the following criteria are met:**  
  • A symmetrically conductive or mixed hearing loss is present as defined by:  
    ○ A difference between left- and right-side bone conduction threshold of less than 10 dB on average measured at 0.5, 1, 2 and 3 kHz (same as 500, 1,000, 2,000, and 3,000 Hz) (4 kHz for OBC and Ponto™ Pro devices)  
    **OR**  
    ○ Less than 15 dB at individual frequencies; |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Medical Necessity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>AND the following audiology criterion is met:</strong> &lt;br&gt;• A pure tone average bone-conduction threshold measured at 0.5, 1, 2, and 3 kHz of better than or equal to 45 dB (OBC and BP100 devices), 55 dB (Intenso™ device) or 65 dB (Cordele II™ device).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Single-sided sensorineural deafness and normal hearing in the other ear</strong></td>
<td><strong>An implantable bone-conduction (bone-anchored) hearing aid may be considered medically necessary as an alternative to an air-conduction contralateral routing of signal (CROS) hearing aid when all of the following criteria are met:</strong> &lt;br&gt;• The patient is 5 years of age or older &lt;br&gt;• The patient has single-sided sensorineural deafness &lt;br&gt;• The patient has normal hearing in the other ear. &lt;br&gt;• The pure tone average air-conduction threshold of the normal ear should be better than 20 dB measured at 0.5, 1, 2, and 3 kHz (same as 500, 1,000, 2,000, and 3,000 Hz).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Investigational</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other uses of implantable bone-conduction/bone-anchored hearing aids</strong></td>
<td><strong>The use of implantable bone-conduction (bone-anchored) hearing aids is considered investigational when the criteria above are not met, including use in patients with bilateral sensorineural hearing loss.</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Patient Characteristics**

**Implanted bone-conduction (bone-anchored) hearing aid(s)**<br>Bone-anchored hearing solutions may also be known as osseointegrated hearing implants. Assessing patients prior to surgery for skull bone quality and thickness adequacy will help to ensure stability of the implanted abutment in the bone behind the ear. Additionally, patients (or caregivers) must be trained to properly clean the implanted and external components to prevent infection and safeguard the skin integrity at the site where the sound processor attaches to the skull. Surgical implantation of the bone anchored hearing aid (BAHA®) device is not FDA approved for children younger than 5 years of age.  

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Reasonable Useful Life Expectancy for BAHA Parts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Replacement Parts</th>
<th>Life Expectancy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Batteries</td>
<td>72 per 6 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Processor</td>
<td>1 per 5 years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Documentation Requirements

The medical records submitted for review should document that medical necessity criteria are met. The record should include clinical documentation of:

- The type of hearing loss for member who is 5 years old or older
- Any inner or outer ear conditions that prevent use of a conventional air-conductive hearing aid
- Result of audiologic test (hearing test) showing the level of hearing loss

Note: Cochlear implants, used for the treatment of severe to profound deafness are addressed in a separate medical policy. (See Related Policies)

Coding

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CPT</td>
<td></td>
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<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 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 mastoidectomy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>69717</td>
<td>Replacement (including removal of existing device), osseointegrated implant, temporal bone, with percutaneous attachment to external speech processor/cochlear stimulator;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Code</td>
<td>Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>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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</tbody>
</table>

**HCPCS**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>L8625</td>
<td>External recharging system for battery for use with cochlear implant or auditory osseointegrated device, replacement only, each</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L8690</td>
<td>Auditory osseointegrated device, includes all internal and external components</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L8691</td>
<td>Auditory osseointegrated device, external sound processor, replacement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L8693</td>
<td>Auditory osseointegrated device abutment, any length, replacement only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L8694</td>
<td>Auditory osseointegrated device, transducer/actuator, replacement only, each</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** CPT codes, descriptions and materials are copyrighted by the American Medical Association (AMA). HCPCS codes, descriptions and materials are copyrighted by Centers for Medicare Services (CMS).

**Related Information**

**Consideration of Age**

The age stated in this policy for which implantable bone conduction hearing aids may be considered medically necessary is 5 years and older. This is based on the FDA approval. Surgical implantation of the BAHA® device is not FDA approved for children younger than 5 years of age.
Benefit Application

A bone-conduction (bone-anchored) hearing aid is a surgically implantable device used to treat a medical condition. The device and implantation surgery should be reimbursed under the medical benefit.

Benefit limitations regarding hearing aids may apply to these devices, specifically when the Implantable Bone-Conduction and Bone-Anchored Hearing Aid (BAHA®) device is used transcutaneously (on the surface of the skin of the head) held in place by a headband or softband and not implanted.

Evidence Review

Description

Sensorineural, conductive, and mixed hearing loss may be treated with various devices, including conventional air-conduction or bone-conduction external hearing aids. Air-conduction hearing aids may not be suitable for patients with chronic middle ear and ear canal infections, atresia of the external canal, or an ear canal that cannot accommodate an ear mold. Bone-conduction hearing aids may be useful for individuals with conductive hearing loss, or (if used with contralateral routing of signal [CROS]), for unilateral sensorineural hearing loss. Implantable, bone-anchored hearing aids (BAHAs) that use a percutaneous or transcutaneous connection to a sound processor have been investigated as alternatives to conventional bone-conduction hearing aids for patients with conductive or mixed hearing loss or for patients with unilateral single-sided sensorineural hearing loss.

Background

Hearing Loss

Hearing loss is described as conductive, sensorineural, or mixed, and can be unilateral or bilateral. Normal hearing detects sound at or below 20 decibels (dB). The American Speech-
Language Hearing Association has defined the degree of hearing loss based on pure-tone average detection thresholds as mild (20 - 40 dB), moderate (40 - 60 dB), severe (60 - 80 dB), and profound (≥ 80 dB). Pure-tone average is calculated by averaging hearing sensitivities (ie, the minimum volume that a patient hears) at multiple frequencies (perceived as pitch), typically within the range of 0.25-8 kHz.

Sound amplification using an air-conduction (AC) hearing aid can provide benefit to patients with sensorineural or mixed hearing loss. Contralateral routing of signal (CROS) is a system in which a microphone on the affected side transmits a signal to an AC hearing aid on the normal or less affected side.

**Treatment**

External bone-conduction hearing devices function by transmitting sound waves through the bone to the ossicles of the middle ear. The external devices must be applied close to the temporal bone, with either a steel spring over the top of the head or a spring-loaded arm on a pair of spectacles. These devices may be associated with either pressure headaches or soreness.

A bone-anchored implant system combines a vibrational transducer coupled directly to the skull via a percutaneous abutment that permanently protrudes through the skin from a small titanium implant anchored in the temporal bone. The system is based on osseointegration through which living tissue integrates with titanium in the implant over 3 to 6 months, conducting amplified and processed sound via the skull bone directly to the cochlea. The lack of intervening skin permits the transmission of vibrations at a lower energy level than required for external bone-conduction hearing aids. Implantable bone-conduction hearing systems are primarily indicated for people with conductive or mixed sensorineural and conductive hearing loss. They may also be used with CROS as an alternative to an AC hearing aid for individuals with unilateral sensorineural hearing loss.

Partially implantable magnetic bone-conduction hearing systems, also referred to as transcutaneous bone-anchored systems, are an alternative to bone-conduction hearing systems that connect to bone percutaneously via an abutment. With this technique, acoustic transmission occurs transcutaneously via magnetic coupling of the external sound processor and the internally implanted device components. The bone-conduction hearing processor contains magnets that adhere externally to magnets implanted in shallow bone beds with the bone-conduction hearing implant. Because the processor adheres magnetically to the implant, there is
no need for a percutaneous abutment to physically connect the external and internal components. To facilitate greater transmission of acoustics between magnets, skin thickness may be reduced to 4-5 mm over the implant when it is surgically placed.

Summary of Evidence

For individuals who have conductive or mixed hearing loss who receive an implantable bone-anchored hearing aid (BAHA) with a percutaneous abutment or a partially implantable BAHA with transcutaneous coupling to the sound processor, the evidence includes observational studies that have reported pre-post differences in hearing parameters after treatment with BAHAs. Relevant outcomes are functional outcomes, quality of life, and treatment-related morbidity. No prospective trials were identified. Observational studies reporting on within-subjects changes in hearing have generally reported hearing improvements with the devices. Given the objectively measured outcomes and the largely invariable natural history of hearing loss in individuals who would be eligible for an implantable bone-conduction device, the demonstrated improvements in hearing after device placement can be attributed to the device. Studies of partially implantable BAHAs have similarly demonstrated within-subjects improvements in hearing. The single-arm studies have shown improvements in hearing in the device-aided state. No direct comparisons other than within-individual comparisons with external hearing aids were identified, but, for individuals unable to wear an external hearing aid, there may be few alternative treatments. The evidence is sufficient to determine that the technology results in a meaningful improvement in the net health outcome.

For individuals who have unilateral sensorineural hearing loss who receive a fully or partially implantable BAHA with the contralateral routing of signal, the evidence includes a randomized controlled trial (RCT), multiple prospective and retrospective case series, and a systematic review. Relevant outcomes are functional outcomes, quality of life, and treatment-related morbidity. Single-arm case series, with sample sizes ranging from 9 to 180 patients, have generally reported improvements in patient-reported speech quality, speech perception in noise, and satisfaction with bone conduction devices with contralateral routing of the signal. However, a well-conducted systematic review of studies comparing bone-anchored devices with hearing aids using contralateral routing of signal found no evidence of improvement in speech recognition or hearing localization. The single RCT included in the systematic review was a pilot study enrolling only 10 patients and, therefore, does not provide definitive evidence. Quality
RCTs on BAHA for unilateral sensorineural hearing loss are lacking. The evidence is insufficient to determine the effects of the technology on health outcomes.

For patients with single-sided sensorineural deafness, a binaural hearing benefit may be provided by way of contralateral routing of signals to the hearing ear. There is evidence that bilateral hearing assistance devices improve hearing to a greater degree than unilateral devices. BAHAs may be considered an alternative to external devices in patients who are not candidates for external devices. By extension, the use of an implantable bone-conduction device with contralateral routing of the signal may be considered medically necessary in patients with unilateral sensorineural deafness.

**Ongoing and Unpublished Clinical Trials**

Some currently unpublished trials that might influence this policy are listed in Table 1 below.

### Table 1. Summary of Key Trials

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NCT No.</th>
<th>Trial Name</th>
<th>Planned Enrollment</th>
<th>Completion Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Unpublished</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCT01858246</td>
<td>A Randomised Controlled Trial Comparing Bone Anchored Hearing Aid With Bonebridge</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>Dec 2017 (Completed, last updated 2018)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCT02092610a</td>
<td>Long Term Stability, Survival and Tolerability of a (Novel) Baha® Implant System</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>Mar 2015 (Completed, last updated 2016)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCT01264510</td>
<td>The Evaluation of the Effectiveness of Bone-anchored Hearing Aids (Baha) in Patients With Conductive or Mixed Hearing Loss, or Unilateral Deafness</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>Aug 2015 (Recruitment status unknown, last updated 2014)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCT02022085a</td>
<td>Post-market Clinical Follow -up of a Magnetic Bone Conduction Implant (Cochlear BAHA Attract System)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Nov 2017 (Completed, last updated 2018)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Clinical Input Received from Physician Specialty Societies and Academic Medical Centers

While the various physician specialty societies and academic medical centers may collaborate with and make recommendations during this process, through the provision of appropriate reviewers, input received does not represent an endorsement or position statement by the physician specialty societies or academic medical centers, unless otherwise noted.

In response to requests, input was received from two specialty societies and three academic medical centers (one of which provided four responses and one of which provided three responses) while this policy was under review in 2016. Input focused on the categorization of partially implantable bone-anchored devices relative to fully implantable devices. There was a strong consensus that partially implantable devices are considered an evolution of earlier devices, and that direct trials comparing the two are not necessary.

Practice Guidelines and Position Statements

In 2016, The American Academy of Otolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery updated its position statement on the use of implantable hearing devices. It states that the Academy “considers bone conduction hearing devices, including implantation of a percutaneous or transcutaneous device and use of a bone conduction oral appliance or bone conduction scalp device to be acceptable, and in many cases preferred, procedures in the treatment of conductive or mixed hearing loss and single-sided deafness when performed by a qualified otolaryngologist-head and neck surgeon”.

Medicare National Coverage

There is no national coverage determination. The Medicare Benefit Policy Manual references hearing aids and auditory implants, stating that hearing aids are excluded from coverage, including air-conduction and bone-conduction devices. However, devices producing the
perception of sound by replacing the function of the middle ear, cochlea, or auditory nerve are payable by Medicare as prosthetic devices. These devices are indicated only when hearing aids are medically inappropriate or cannot be used. Along with cochlear and auditory brainstem implants, the benefits manual specifically refers to osseointegrated implants as prosthetic devices. In 2014, Medicare clarified its hearing aid coverage to state that “certain auditory implants, including cochlear implants, brain stem implants, and osseointegrated implants, do not meet the definition of hearing aids that are excluded from coverage.”

**Regulatory Status**

Several implantable bone-conduction hearing systems have been approved by the US Food and Drug Administration for marketing through the 510(k) process (see Table 2).

**Table 2. Implantable Bone-Conduction Hearing Systems Approved by the US Food and Drug Administration**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Device</th>
<th>Manufacturer</th>
<th>Date Cleared</th>
<th>510(k) No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baha® Auditory Osseointegrated Implant System</td>
<td>Cochlear Americas</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BA310 Abutment, BIA310 Implant/Abutment</td>
<td></td>
<td>Dec 2018</td>
<td>K182116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baha 5 Power Sound Processor</td>
<td></td>
<td>May 2016</td>
<td>K161123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baha 5 Super Power Sound Processor</td>
<td></td>
<td>Mar 2016</td>
<td>K153245</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baha® 5 Sound Processor</td>
<td></td>
<td>Mar 2015</td>
<td>K142907</td>
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<tr>
<td>Baha® Attract System</td>
<td></td>
<td>Nov 2013</td>
<td>K131240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baha® Cordelle II</td>
<td></td>
<td>Jul 2015</td>
<td>K150751</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Apr 2008</td>
<td>K080363</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Device</td>
<td>Manufacturer</td>
<td>Date Cleared</td>
<td>510(k) No.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baha Divino®</td>
<td></td>
<td>Aug 2004</td>
<td>K042017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baha Intenso® (digital signal processing)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Aug 2008</td>
<td>K081606</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baha® 4 (upgraded from the BP100)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sep 2013</td>
<td>K132278</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OBC Bone-Anchored Hearing Aid System</td>
<td>Oticon Medical</td>
<td>Nov 2011</td>
<td>K112053</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ponto Bone-Anchored Hearing System</td>
<td>Oticon Medical</td>
<td>Sep 2012</td>
<td>K121228</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ponto 4</td>
<td></td>
<td>May 2019</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ponto 3, Ponto 3 Power and Ponto 3 SuperPower</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sep 2016</td>
<td>K161671</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The FDA cleared these systems for use in children ages 5 years and older and adults for the following indications:

- Patients who have conductive or mixed hearing loss and can still benefit from sound amplification;
- Patients with bilaterally symmetric conductive or mixed hearing loss may be implanted bilaterally;
- Patients with sensorineural deafness in 1 ear and normal hearing in the other (ie, single-sided deafness);
- Patients who are candidates for an AC CROS hearing aid but who cannot or will not wear an AC CROS device.

Baha sound processors can be used with the Baha® Softband™. With this application, there is no implantation surgery. The sound processor is attached to the head using a hard or soft headband. The amplified sound is transmitted transcutaneously to the cochlea via the bones of the skull. In 2002, the Baha® Softband™ was cleared for marketing by FDA for use in children.
younger than 5 years. Because this application has no implanted components, it is not addressed in this policy.

The FDA also cleared three partially implantable magnetic bone-conduction devices for marketing through the 510(k) process (see Table 3).

### Table 3. Partially Implantable Magnetic Bone-Conduction Devices Approved by the US Food and Drug Administration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Device</th>
<th>Manufacturer</th>
<th>Date Cleared</th>
<th>510(k) No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bonebridge</td>
<td>MED-EL</td>
<td>Mar 2019</td>
<td>K183373</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Otomag® Bone-ConductionHearing System</td>
<td>Medtronic (Formerly Sophono)</td>
<td>Nov 2013</td>
<td>K132189</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cochlear Baha® 4 Sound Processor</td>
<td>Cochlear™ Americas)</td>
<td>Oct 2012</td>
<td>K121317</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The SoundBite™ Hearing System (Sonitus Medical, San Mateo, CA) is an intraoral bone-conducting hearing prosthesis that consists of a behind-the-ear microphone and an in-the-mouth hearing device. In 2011, it was cleared for marketing by FDA through the 510(k) process for indications similar to the Baha. However, the manufacturer, Sonitus Medical, closed in 2015.

FDA product code (for bone-anchoring hearing aid): LXB. FDA product code (for implanted bone-conduction hearing aid): MAH.

### References


Appendix

Figure 1.
Implanted used of BAHA

Figure 1 source: http://emedicine.medscape.com/article/1604065-overview  Accessed April 2020

History

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10/09/12</td>
<td>New policy. Policy includes statement about medical necessity criteria for use of BAHA with headband or softband for children less than 5 years of age; that was not addressed in the BC policy. A table of frequency of BAHA replacement parts is included in the benefit application section. This policy (7.01.547) replaces 7.01.03.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/08/13</td>
<td>Replace policy. Updated with literature review and references renumbered. Policy statements unchanged.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Comments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/25/14</td>
<td>Replace policy. Added &quot;magnetic&quot; and &quot;BAHA Attract&quot; to last investigational policy statement. Clarified Benefit Application statement. Rationale updated with literature review through February 2014. Simplified Medicare National Coverage statement. References 3, 25, 34 added; others renumbered/removed. In appendix, revised figures 1-2, added source hyperlinks. Policy statement changed as noted. ICD-9 and ICD-10 codes removed from the policy; these are not utilized in adjudication and were informational only.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05/01/17</td>
<td>Annual Review, changes approved April 11, 2017. Policy updated with literature review through December 20, 2016; references 23, 37, 53, 57, 59-61, and 69 added. Investigational statement for partially implantable devices is removed. Evaluating the BoneBridge implant as it is not currently cleared for marketing in the USA.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/24/17</td>
<td>Policy moved to new format; no change to policy statements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05/01/18</td>
<td>Annual Review, approved April 18, 2018. Policy updated with literature review through December 2017; no references added. Added HCPCS code L8694. Policy statement unchanged.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09/01/18</td>
<td>Minor update. Re-added Consideration of Age information; it was inadvertently removed in a previous update.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05/01/20</td>
<td>New policy number (7.01.03), approved April 14, 2020. Policy 7.01.03 replaces policy 7.01.547 which is now deleted. Policy updated with literature review through December 2019; references updated. Removed criteria for transcutaneous BAHA with Softband. Removed HCPCS Code L8692.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Disclaimer:** This medical policy is a guide in evaluating the medical necessity of a particular service or treatment. The Company adopts policies after careful review of published peer-reviewed scientific literature, national guidelines and local standards of practice. Since medical technology is constantly changing, the Company reserves the right to review and update policies as appropriate. Member contracts differ in their benefits. Always consult the member benefit booklet or contact a member service representative to determine coverage for a specific medical service or supply.
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**Scope:** Medical policies are systematically developed guidelines that serve as a resource for Company staff when determining coverage for specific medical procedures, drugs or devices. Coverage for medical services is subject to the limits and conditions of the member benefit plan. Members and their providers should consult the member benefit booklet or contact a customer service representative to determine whether there are any benefit limitations applicable to this service or supply. This medical policy does not apply to Medicare Advantage.
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  • Written information in other formats (large print, audio, accessible electronic formats, other formats)
• Provides free language services to people whose primary language is not English, such as:
  • Qualified interpreters
  • Information written in other languages

If you need these services, contact the Civil Rights Coordinator.

If you believe that Premera has failed to provide these services or discriminated in another way on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex, you can file a grievance with:
Civil Rights Coordinator - Complaints and Appeals
PO Box 91102, Seattle, WA 98111
Toll free 855-332-4535, Fax 425-918-5592, TTY 800-842-5357
Email AppealsDepartmentInquiries@Premera.com

You can file a grievance in person or by mail, fax, or email. If you need help filing a grievance, the Civil Rights Coordinator is available to help you.

You can also file a civil rights complaint with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights, electronically through the Office for Civil Rights Complaint Portal, available at https://ocrportal.hhs.gov/ocr/portal/lobby.jsf, or by mail or phone at:
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue SW, Room 509F, HHH Building
Washington, D.C. 20201, 1-800-368-1019, 800-537-7697 (TDD)
Complaint forms are available at

Getting Help in Other Languages

This Notice has Important Information. This notice may have important information about your application or coverage through Premera Blue Cross. There may be key dates in this notice. You may need to take action by certain deadlines to keep your health coverage or help with costs. You have the right to get this information and help in your language at no cost.
Call 800-722-1471 (TTY: 800-842-5357).

Arabic (Arabic):
لا تصرح هذه الإشعار عن وضعية طبى أو
العملية التي تبردها管理水平 على عدة قسم
Premera Blue Cross للإشعار عن وضعية طبى أو
العملية التي تبردها管理水平 على عدة قسم
Premera Blue Cross.

Chinese (Chinese):
本通知有重要的訊息。本通知可能有關於您透過Premera Blue Cross提交
的申請或保險的重要訊息。本通知可能有大量的重要日期。您可能需要在截止日期
之前採取行動，以保留您的健康保險或費用補貼。您有權利免費以您的母
語得到本訊息和幫助。請撥電話 800-722-1471 (TTY: 800-842-5357).

Italian (Italian):
Questo avviso contiene informazioni importanti. Questo avviso può contenere
informazioni importanti sulla tua domanda o copertura attraverso Premera Blue Cross.
Potrebbe essere necessario un tuo intervento entro una scadenza determinata per
consentirti di mantenere la tua copertura o sovvenzione. Hai il diritto di
ottenere queste informazioni e assistenza nella tua lingua gratuitamente.
Chiami 800-722-1471 (TTY: 800-842-5357).

Français (French):
Cet avis a d’importantes informations. Cet avis peut avoir d’importantes
informations sur votre demande ou la couverture par l’intermédiaire de
Premera Blue Cross. Le présent avis peut contenir des dates clés. Vous
devrez peut-être prendre des mesures par certains délais pour maintenir
votre couverture de santé ou d’aide avec les coûts. Vous avez le droit
d’obtenir cette information et de l’aide dans votre langue à aucun coût.
Appelez le 800-722-1471 (TTY: 800-842-5357).

Kreyòl ayisyen (Creole):
Avi sila a gen Enfòmasyon Empòtan laadann. Avi sila a kapab genyen
enfòmasyon empòtan konsèn aplikasyon w lan osawa konsèn vòuketi
asirans lan atravè Premera Blue Cross. Kapab genyen dat ki enpòtan nan
avi sila a. Ou ka gen pou pran kék aksyon avan sèten dat limit pou ka
kone vòuketi asirans sante w la osawa pou yo ka ede w avèk depans yo.
Se dwa w pou resewa enfòmasyon sa a ak asistans nan lang ou pa aite a,
san ou pa gen pou peye pou sa. Rate nan 800-722-1471
(TTY: 800-842-5357).

Deutsche (German):
Diese Benachrichtigung enthält wichtige Informationen. Diese
Benachrichtigung enthält unter Umständen wichtige Informationen
bezüglich Ihres Antrags auf Krankenversicherungsschutz durch Premera
Blue Cross. Suchen Sie nach eventuellen wichtigen Terminen in dieser
Benachrichtigung. Sie könnten bis zu bestimmten Stichtagen handeln
müssen, um Ihren Krankenversicherungsschutz oder Hilfe mit den Kosten
zu behalten. Sie haben das Recht, kostenlose Hilfe und Informationen
in Ihrer Sprache zu erhalten. Rufen Sie an unter 800-722-1471
(TTY: 800-842-5357).

Hmoob (Hmong):
Tsab ntwaw tshaj xo no muaj cov ntsiab lus tseem ceeb. Tej zaum
tsab ntwaw tshaj xo no muaj cov ntsiab lus tseem ceeb boky kog dain ntwaw
thov kev pab los yoj kog qhov kev pab cuam los ntsaw Premera Blue Cross.
Tey zaum muaj cov hnbv tseem ceeb uus sau rau hauv dain ntwaw
no. Tej zaum ntwaw kog kuyu qau uu qee yam uus peb kom kog uas tib pib
thau cov caj nyong uas teev tsq rau hauv dain ntwaw no mas kog tay
qayu baiv bas kev pab cuam kho mob los yoj kev pab teb tej qaj kho mob
ntwaw. Kog muaj cai kom laww muab cov ntsiab lus no uas tau muab sau
uu kog hom lus pub daww rau kog. Hu rau 800-722-1471
(TTY: 800-842-5357).

Ilokano (Ilocano):
Daytoy a Pakdaar ket naglaon iti Napateg nga Impormasion. Daytoy a
pakdaar mabalim nga adda ket naglaon iti napateg nga impormasion
maipanggip iti aplikasyonowy woong coverage babaen iti Premera
Blue Cross. Daytoy ket mabalim dagiti importante a pelsa iti daytoy a pkadara.
Mabalim nga adda rumbeng nga aramideng nga addang sakbay dagiti
partikular a naituding nga aldaw tapno mapagtalinaediy wo coverage ti
sulay-anayo woong tulong kadagiti gastos. Adda karbenganyo a mangala iti
daytoy nga impormasion ken tulong ilong bukodyo a pagsasao nga awan ti

Oromoo (Cushite):
Beeksiinsi kun odeefannoo barbaachisaa qaba. Beeksiisti kun sagantaa
yoojan karaa Premera Blue Cross tiin tajaalija keessaan ilaalchisee
odeefannoo barbaachisaa qabaachu danda’a. Guyyaaawannu murteessaa
ta’an beeksiis kana keessaatii ilaalaa. Tarii kattifiidhaan deeggarummu
yoojan tajaalija fayyaa keessanif guyyaa dhumaa iratti wanti raawwatan
jiraachu danda’a. Kattifiiti irraa bilisaa haala ta’een afana keessannin
odeefannoo arguchu fi deeggarasa arguchu miga ni qabaattu.
Lakkoofsa bilbilaa 800-722-1471 (TTY: 800-842-5357) ti bilbilaa.
Este aviso contiene información importante. Este aviso puede contener información importante privada. Será necesario que acceda a esta información para el funcionamiento de su negocio. Por favor, lea con atención y mantenga esta información confidencial. La información que proporciona será usada exclusivamente para propósitos legales. Si tiene alguna pregunta, por favor póngase en contacto con nuestro equipo de asistencia al cliente en 800-722-1471 (TTY: 800-842-5357).