

Hearing Aid and Ancillary Equipment Benefit Texas Annual Conference Group Health Benefits

The Group Health Benefits Committee with the approval of the Board of Pensions recognizes the need for active clergy and lay employees to be able to hear to perform their ministry.

Effective date of Active Clergy Hearing Aid Benefit: September 1, 2014

Effective date of Active TAC Fiscal Office Lay Employee Hearing Aid Benefit: January 1, 2016

Eligibility for Hearing Aid Benefit: Active Clergy and Active Lay Employees of the TAC Fiscal Office who participate in either the TAC Group Health Standard or High-deductible PPO plan and have not opted out of the Hearing Aid Benefit are eligible. (Dependents and retirees are not eligible).

Benefit: Active Clergy and TAC Fiscal Office Lay Employees who are Group Health Plan participants are eligible to obtain a hearing aid once every three (3) years for each ear if required. There is a \$250 co-pay on the first \$2,500 of total eligible expenses (including hearing exam and hearing aid(s)). For eligible expenses that exceed \$2,500, there is 10% co-insurance on the amount above \$2,500. Usual, reasonable and customary allowances will apply. The calendar-year deductible applicable to your PPO plan does not apply to the Hearing Aid Benefit described herein.

What is covered: (1) A hearing aid instrument, monaural or binaural, including ear mold(s); (2) Visit for fitting, counseling, and adjustments; (3) The initial battery; (4) Cords; (5) Other ancillary equipment.

What is not covered: (1) Purchase of batteries or other ancillary equipment, except those covered under the terms of the initial hearing aid purchase; (2) Charges for a hearing aid that exceeds the specifications prescribed for correction of a hearing loss; (3) Replacement parts for hearing aids, repair of a hearing aid after the covered warranty period, and replacement of a hearing aid more than once in any 36 month period; (4) Surgically implanted hearing devices.

Opting out of the benefit: Eligible clergy or lay employees of the TAC Fiscal Office may opt out of the Hearing Aid Benefit by notifying the TAC Benefits Office in writing during the annual open enrollment period.

Use of specific providers: Any licensed provider can be utilized in obtaining the Hearing Aid Benefit.

Filing a claim: The Hearing Aid Benefit is provided on a direct reimbursement basis (participant pays the cost and submits the paid receipt and claim form to Boon-Chapman).

If the provider is willing to accept installment payments, please provide an invoice with the total cost of the hearing aid(s), the number of installment payments, and the amount of each installment payment. Individual installment payments can be submitted for reimbursement by submitting the receipt with the completed claim form to Boon-Chapman.

Hearing Aid Benefit Reimbursement claim forms are available on the TAC Benefits website.