A Model of Evidenced Based Practice with Itemized Billing

Stephanie J. Sjoblad, Au.D.
Clinic Director/ Associate Professor
UNC-Hearing & Communication Center
UNC Division of Speech and Hearing Sciences
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
35+ years of marketing the product!

"The price of your X hearing aid includes custom programming if you so desire. Your hearing aid is already programmed for high frequency hearing loss - the most common hearing loss curves in the hard-of-hearing population."
According to ASHA (American Speech-Language Hearing Association) it was unethical for audiologists to dispense hearing aids.

Hearing aid dispensers sold hearing aids. They were marked up like any other retail product.

Audiologists were paid for their services, including: diagnostic services, administering hearing aid evaluations, and some hearing aid trim pot adjustments.

The Supreme Court ruled that “A society’s canon of ethics having the effect of limiting compensation among the society’s members is illegal.”

*Handbook of Clinical Audiology, 5th Edition*
Katz, Burkard, Medvetsky, 2002
What should one expect from their provider?

- Choice of brands, styles and features
- Convenient hours
- Walk-in repairs
- Sound-proof booth for testing
- Several types of hearing tests
- Rehab classes and/or therapy
- Flexible evaluation period with option to return Hearing Aid(s)
- Real Ear Measures to customize the fitting
- Itemized/unbundled pricing option
Combining products & services into one lump sum.
Bundled Billing

Combining products & services into one lump sum.

2012 AAA Billing Practices Survey revealed 67% of audiology practices were bundled
Breaking up prices completely.

Unbundled or Itemized Billing

Hearing Aid
Pre-Fitting EAA
Pre-Fitting D-Mic Test
Real-Ear Measures

PATIENT’S BILL

$  
$  
$  
$
Unbundled/Itemized Billing

Breaking up prices completely.

PATIENT’S BILL

$ Hearing Aid

$ Hearing Aid

$ Pre-Fitting D-Mic Test

$ Real Ear Measurement

2 wk: Follow-up

4 wk: Follow-up

6 wk: Follow-up

6 mo: Tubing Change

12 mo: Annual Check

15 mo: Repair (wax)

17 mo: Tubing Change

20 mo: Repair (Moisture)

24 mo: Annual Check
Breaking up prices completely, after the EVALUATION AND ADJUSTMENT period.
Breaking up prices completely, after the initial evaluation and adjustment period.

Our [Partially] Unbundled Billing
UNC Hearing & Communication Center

Self-supported community-based clinic for training doctoral students

- Staffed by faculty audiologists
- June 2004 - Grand Opening
- July 2005 - Unbundled/Itemized
- July 2010 - Transparency in HA pricing
- July 2013 - Service plan option available
- Always - Committed to utilizing EPB as outlined by the American Academy of Audiology
What we are teaching the AuD students at UNC - CH
American Academy of Audiology Task Force

Guidelines for the Audiologic Management of Adult Hearing Impairment

• 44 page document – set of statements, recommendations and strategies for best practice in the provision of a comprehensive treatment plan for the audiologic management of adults with hearing loss

• Review of scientific evidence published in peer-reviewed and non-peer reviewed journals – to develop evidence-based principles

• It is patient centered and includes a section on auditory and non-auditory needs assessment.

  • Summarized by Michael Valente, Ph.D, Chair of the Task Force on www.audiologyonline.com (10/30/2006)
An Evidence-based Model

- Hearing Evaluation
- Functional Communication Assessment
- Hearing Aid Fitting
- Hearing Aid Follow-up
- Individualized and Group Aural Rehab

PLUS –
SIX MONTH AND ANNUAL HEARING AID CHECKS
Comprehensive Evaluation

» 92557 medical necessity

» S0618 for hearing aid evaluation

If medically necessary:

- tympanometry (92567)
- tympanometry and acoustic reflexes (92550)

Possible modifiers:

- Reduced services (52)
- Item or service statutorily excluded (GY)
## AUDIOMETRY DIAGNOSTIC PROCEDURES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CPT mod.</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>FEE</th>
<th>CPT mod.</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>FEE</th>
<th>CPT mod.</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>FEE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>92557</td>
<td>Comprehensive Audiogram (air, bone, speech complete)</td>
<td>√</td>
<td>92588</td>
<td>OAE (comprehensive)</td>
<td>√</td>
<td>92630</td>
<td>Audiological Rehabilitation [pre-lingual]</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>92567</td>
<td>Tympanometry</td>
<td>√</td>
<td>92587</td>
<td>OAE (single intensity level)</td>
<td>√</td>
<td>92633</td>
<td>Audiological Rehabilitation [post-lingual]</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>92550</td>
<td>Tympanometry AND reflexes</td>
<td>√</td>
<td>92579</td>
<td>Visual Reinforcement Audiometry</td>
<td>√</td>
<td>69210</td>
<td>Cerumen Removal (IMPACTED)</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>92570</td>
<td>Tympanometry, Reflexes AND Decay</td>
<td>√</td>
<td>92582</td>
<td>Conditioning Play Audiometry</td>
<td>√</td>
<td>92700</td>
<td>Cerumen Removal (not impacted)</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>92568</td>
<td>Acoustic Reflex Thresholds</td>
<td>√</td>
<td>92583</td>
<td>Select Picture Audiometry</td>
<td>√</td>
<td>99080</td>
<td>Special Reports</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>92552</td>
<td>Pure-Tone Air</td>
<td>√</td>
<td>92625</td>
<td>Assessment of Tinnitus</td>
<td>√</td>
<td>99368</td>
<td>Team Meeting</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>92553</td>
<td>Pure-Tone Air and Bone</td>
<td>√</td>
<td>92596</td>
<td>Ear Protection Attenuation Measurement</td>
<td>√</td>
<td>92700</td>
<td>Unlisted Service or Procedure</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>92551</td>
<td>Hearing Screening, Air Only (not seeking HTLs)</td>
<td>√</td>
<td>92626</td>
<td>Evaluation of Auditory Rehab. (1st hr)</td>
<td>√</td>
<td>92571</td>
<td>Filtered Speech Test/Hearing in Noise Test</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>92565</td>
<td>Stenger, pure tone</td>
<td>√</td>
<td>92627</td>
<td>Add'l 15 min. of auditory rehab.</td>
<td>√</td>
<td>92571</td>
<td>Filtered Speech Test/Hearing in Noise Test</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>92555</td>
<td>Speech Threshold [SRT/SAT]</td>
<td>√</td>
<td>92620</td>
<td>Central Auditory Processing Eval (1st hr)</td>
<td>√</td>
<td>92571</td>
<td>Filtered Speech Test/Hearing in Noise Test</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>92556</td>
<td>SRT &amp; WRS [add -22 modifier if PI/PB]</td>
<td>√</td>
<td>92621</td>
<td>CAP (ea add'l 15 min)</td>
<td>√</td>
<td>92571</td>
<td>Filtered Speech Test/Hearing in Noise Test</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## DIAGNOSIS CODES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CODE</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>FEE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>388.4</td>
<td>Abnormal Auditory Perception</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>388.11</td>
<td>Acquired Auditory Trauma</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>389.22</td>
<td>Hearing Loss, Mixed, Bilateral</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>389.21</td>
<td>Hearing Loss, Mixed, Unilateral</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>389.12</td>
<td>Hearing Loss, Noise induced</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>389.12</td>
<td>Hearing Loss, Neural, Bilateral &gt;60 dB</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>389.13</td>
<td>Hearing Loss, Neural, Unilateral &gt;60 dB</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>389.16</td>
<td>Hearing Loss, Sensorineural, asymmetrical</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>389.18</td>
<td>Hearing Loss, Sensorineural, Bilateral</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>389.15</td>
<td>Hearing Loss, Sensorineural, Unilateral</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>389.19</td>
<td>Hearing Loss, Sensory, Bilateral, &lt;60 dB</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>389.17</td>
<td>Hearing Loss, Sensory, Unilateral, &lt;60 dB</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## PQRS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CODE</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>FEE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>G8431</td>
<td>Positive screen for clinical depression/follow up plan documented</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G8510</td>
<td>Negative screen for clinical depression/no follow up required</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G8433</td>
<td>Screening for clinical depression not documented/pt not eligible</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G8432</td>
<td>No documentation of clinical depression</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Additional Codes

- Encount er for Hearing Conservation
- Eustachian Tube Dysfunction
- Exostosis of External Ear Canal
- Hearing Loss, Central
- Hearing Loss, Conductive, Bilateral
- Hearing Loss, Conductive, Unilateral
- Hearing Loss, Mixed, Bilateral
- Hearing Loss, Mixed, Unilateral
- Hearing Loss, Sensorineural, Bilateral
- Hearing Loss, Sensorineural, Unilateral
- Hearing Loss, Conductive, <60 dB
- Hearing Loss, Conductive, >60 dB
- Hearing Loss, Mixed, >60 dB
- Hearing Loss, Mixed, <60 dB
- Hearing Loss, Neural, >60 dB
- Hearing Loss, Neural, <60 dB
- Hearing Loss, Sensory, >60 dB
- Hearing Loss, Sensory, <60 dB
- Audiograms (complete, comprehensive, selective, single intensity level)
- Tympanometry
- Audiological Rehabilitation [pre-lingual, post-lingual]
- CPT mod.
- Description
- Fee
- CPT mod.
- Description
- Fee
- CPT mod.
- Description
- Fee
Remember: it’s about more than the device

Healthy Stereocilia

Damaged Stereocilia
Hearing Aid Evaluation (92590/1)

**Functional Communication Assessment**
*looks at the whole person, not just the ears*

- Characteristics of Amplification Tool (COAT)
- Quick SIN (speech in noise testing)
- Loudness Discomfort Measures (LDL)
- Acceptable Noise Level (ANL) as needed
- Cochlear dead region testing (TEN-HL) as needed
- Lifestyle Assessment
- Client Oriented Scale of Improvement

- Technology selection / treatment plan (range of HA options)

- Earmold Impression(s)
  - Impression(s) V5275
  - Earmold(s) V5264

## Hearing Aid Procedures, Earmolds, and Accessories

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CPT / HCPCS</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>FEE</th>
<th>HCPCS</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>FEE</th>
<th>HCPCS</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>FEE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>V5299</strong></td>
<td>Office Visit</td>
<td></td>
<td>V5257</td>
<td>Digital BTE, monaural</td>
<td></td>
<td>98960</td>
<td>Education &amp; Training, individual</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>92592</td>
<td>HA Check, monaural (visual &amp; listening inspections)</td>
<td></td>
<td>V5256</td>
<td>Digital ITE, monaural</td>
<td>98961</td>
<td>V7212</td>
<td>Encounter for hearing conservation &amp; Tx</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>92593</td>
<td>HA Check, binaural (visual &amp; listening inspections)</td>
<td></td>
<td>V5255</td>
<td>Digital ITC, monaural</td>
<td>98962</td>
<td>V7212</td>
<td>Encounter for hearing conservation &amp; Tx</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>92594</td>
<td>Electroacoustic Analysis, monaural</td>
<td></td>
<td>V5254</td>
<td>Digital CIC, monaural</td>
<td></td>
<td>99002</td>
<td>Loss and Damage Deductible, per device</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>92595</td>
<td>Electroacoustic Analysis, binaural</td>
<td></td>
<td>V5262</td>
<td>Disposable Aid, monaural</td>
<td>69210</td>
<td>V5299</td>
<td>HA Extended Warranty</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V5014</td>
<td>HA Repair by Mfctr., 6 mo. Warranty</td>
<td></td>
<td>V5260</td>
<td>Digital ITE, binaural</td>
<td>98966</td>
<td>V5299</td>
<td>HA Extended Warranty</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V5014</td>
<td>HA Repair by Mfctr., 12 mo. Warranty</td>
<td></td>
<td>V5261</td>
<td>Digital BTE, binaural</td>
<td>98966</td>
<td>V5299</td>
<td>HA Extended Warranty</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V5267</td>
<td>HA Supplies/Accessories (see reverse)</td>
<td></td>
<td>V5263</td>
<td>Disposable Aid, binaural</td>
<td>92700</td>
<td>V5299</td>
<td>HA Extended Warranty</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>92590</td>
<td>HA Evaluation, monaural (Func. Comm. Assess.)</td>
<td></td>
<td>V5241</td>
<td>Dispensing Fee, monaural</td>
<td>98966</td>
<td>V5299</td>
<td>HA Extended Warranty</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>92591</td>
<td>HA Evaluation, binaural (Func. Comm. Assess.)</td>
<td></td>
<td>V5160</td>
<td>Dispensing Fee, binaural</td>
<td>98966</td>
<td>V5299</td>
<td>HA Extended Warranty</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>V5275</strong></td>
<td>Earmold Impression (each)</td>
<td></td>
<td>V5110</td>
<td>Dispensing Fee, bilateral</td>
<td>92700</td>
<td>V5299</td>
<td>HA Extended Warranty</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>V5264</strong></td>
<td>Earmold Custom (each)</td>
<td></td>
<td>V5090</td>
<td>Dispensing Fee, unspecified aid (FM)</td>
<td>92700</td>
<td>V5299</td>
<td>HA Extended Warranty</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V5265</td>
<td>Earmold, Disposable (each)</td>
<td></td>
<td>V5200</td>
<td>Dispensing Fee, CROS</td>
<td>92700</td>
<td>V5299</td>
<td>HA Extended Warranty</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V5011</td>
<td>Fitting and Orientation of Hearing Aid(s)</td>
<td></td>
<td>V5240</td>
<td>Dispensing Fee, BICROS</td>
<td>92700</td>
<td>V5299</td>
<td>HA Extended Warranty</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V5011</td>
<td>Fitting and Orientation of FM</td>
<td></td>
<td>V5298</td>
<td>Hearing Aid, miscellaneous</td>
<td>92700</td>
<td>V5299</td>
<td>HA Extended Warranty</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V5020</td>
<td>Conformity Evaluation (Real-Ear Measures)</td>
<td></td>
<td>V5298</td>
<td>Lyric Subscription</td>
<td>92700</td>
<td>V5299</td>
<td>HA Extended Warranty</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V5014</td>
<td>Hearing Aid Reprogramming Basic Simple Advance</td>
<td></td>
<td>92630</td>
<td>Audiological Rehabilitation [pre-lingual]</td>
<td>92700</td>
<td>V5299</td>
<td>HA Extended Warranty</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V5267</td>
<td>Musician's Earplugs Filters (each)</td>
<td></td>
<td>92633</td>
<td>Audiological Rehabilitation [post-lingual]</td>
<td>92700</td>
<td>V5299</td>
<td>HA Extended Warranty</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Before fittings, after repairs and as needed:

- Electroacoustic Analysis (EAA)
- Directional Microphone (DM) test
- Distortion Test
- Hearing aid check
  - Visual inspection and listening check

2008-2009 UNC-HCC in-house study

- 12% of new hearing aids FAILED EAA upon receipt
- 18% of repaired hearing aids FAILED EAA and had to be returned for another repair
Hearing Aid Fitting

Receive HA from Manufacturer
- Visual inspection and listening check (92592/3)
- Quality Assurance (V5011)
  - EAA, DM, HAC

Day of Fitting
- Office Visit (V5299)
- Conformity Evaluation (V5020)
  - Probe Microphone Measures
  - Functional Gain
  - Validation
- Hearing Aid Programming (V5014)
- Orientation (V5011)
  - Care, maintenance, use
- Dispensing Fee binaural (V5160)
- Hearing Aid – digital BTE binaural (V5261)

Hearing aid fitting follow-up/Counseling/AR Classes
- Appointments included for 45 days
  - Recommend: 2 week and 4 week (six week as needed)
Pt’s Loudness Discomfort Levels

Hearing Aid MPO

65 dB Speech

55 dB Speech

Patient’s Hearing Thresholds (dBSPL)
REM: Following programming adjustments

Pt’s Loudness Discomfort Levels

Hearing Aid MPO

65 dB Speech

55 dB Speech

Patient’s Hearing Thresholds (dBsPL)
### Hearing Aid Procedures, Earmolds, and Accessories (and related professional services)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CPT / HCPCS</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Fee</th>
<th>HCPCS mod.</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Fee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>V5299</td>
<td>Office Visit</td>
<td></td>
<td>V5257</td>
<td>Digital BTE, monaural</td>
<td>98960 Education &amp; Training, individual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>92592</td>
<td>HA Check, monaural (visual &amp; listening inspections)</td>
<td></td>
<td>V5256</td>
<td>Digital ITE, monaural</td>
<td>98961 Education &amp; Training, 2-4 persons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>92593</td>
<td>HA Check, binaural (visual &amp; listening inspections)</td>
<td></td>
<td>V5255</td>
<td>Digital ITC, monaural</td>
<td>98962 Education &amp; Training, 5-8 persons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>92594</td>
<td>Electroacoustic Analysis, monaural</td>
<td></td>
<td>V5254</td>
<td>Digital CIC, monaural</td>
<td>V7212 Encounter for hearing conservation &amp; Tx</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>92595</td>
<td>Electroacoustic Analysis, binaural</td>
<td></td>
<td>V5262</td>
<td>Disposable Aid, monaural</td>
<td>99002 Shipping and Handling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V5014</td>
<td>HA Repair By Mfr., 6 mo. Warranty</td>
<td></td>
<td>V5261</td>
<td>Digital BTE, binaural</td>
<td>V5299 HA Extended Warranty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V5014</td>
<td>HA Repair By Mfr., 12 mo. Warranty</td>
<td></td>
<td>V5260</td>
<td>Digital ITE, binaural</td>
<td>V5299 HA Extended Warranty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V5014</td>
<td>HA Repair, in-house per ear small parts replaced</td>
<td></td>
<td>V5259</td>
<td>Digital ITC, binaural</td>
<td>69210 Cerumen Removal [IMPACTED]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V5014</td>
<td>HA Repair no charge</td>
<td></td>
<td>V5259</td>
<td>Digital CIC, binaural</td>
<td>92700 Cerumen Removal [not impacted]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V5267</td>
<td>HA Supplies/Accessories (see reverse)</td>
<td></td>
<td>V5263</td>
<td>Disposable Aid, binaural</td>
<td>98966 Telephone Assessment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>92590</td>
<td>HA Evaluation, monaural (Func. Comm. Assess.)</td>
<td></td>
<td>V5241</td>
<td>Dispensing Fee, monaural</td>
<td>98969 Online Assessment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>92591</td>
<td>HA Evaluation, binaural (Func. Comm. Assess.)</td>
<td></td>
<td>V5160</td>
<td>Dispensing Fee, binaural</td>
<td>V5266 Battery (6 batteries/pk)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V5275</td>
<td>Earmold Impression (each)</td>
<td></td>
<td>V5110</td>
<td>Dispensing Fee, bilateral</td>
<td>V5266 Battery Club Membership (8pk of 6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V5264</td>
<td>Earmold Custom (each)</td>
<td></td>
<td>V5090</td>
<td>Dispensing Fee, unspecified aid (FM)</td>
<td>V5268 ALD, Telephone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V5265</td>
<td>Earmold, Disposable (each)</td>
<td></td>
<td>V5200</td>
<td>Dispensing Fee, CROS</td>
<td>V5269 ALD, Alerting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V5011</td>
<td>Fitting and Orientation of Hearing Aid(s)</td>
<td></td>
<td>V5240</td>
<td>Dispensing Fee, BICROS</td>
<td>V5270 ALD, TV Amplifier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V5011</td>
<td>Fitting and Orientation of FM</td>
<td></td>
<td>V5298</td>
<td>Hearing Aid, miscellaneous</td>
<td>V5274 ALD, miscellaneous (e.g., FM, wireless)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V5020</td>
<td>Conformity Evaluation (Real-Ear Measures)</td>
<td></td>
<td>V5298</td>
<td>Lyric Subscription</td>
<td>V5299 Hearing Service Miscellaneous (Home visit)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V5014</td>
<td>Hearing Aid Reprogramming Basic Simple Advance</td>
<td></td>
<td>92630</td>
<td>Audiological Rehabilitation [pre-lingual]</td>
<td>V5299 Consult: Basic Simple Intermediate Advance per 15 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V5267</td>
<td>Musician's Earplugs Filters (each)</td>
<td></td>
<td>92633</td>
<td>Audiological Rehabilitation [post-lingual]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Six Months:
- Office visit (V5299)
- Otoscopy/Review Case Hx
- HAC (92592/3)
  - Visual and listening inspection
- Hearing aid repair, in house (V5014)
  - per ear – small parts replacement

Annual:
- Office visit (V5299)
- HAC (92592/3)
  - Visual and listening inspection
- Hearing aid repair, in house (V5014)
  - per ear – small parts replacement
- EAA (92594/5)
### HEARING AID PROCEDURES, EARMOLDS, AND ACCESSORIES (and related professional services)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CPT / HCPCS mod.</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>FEE</th>
<th>HCPCS mod.</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>FEE</th>
<th>HCPCS mod.</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>V5299</td>
<td>Office Visit</td>
<td></td>
<td>V5257</td>
<td>Digital BTE, monaural</td>
<td>98960</td>
<td>Education &amp; Training, individual</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>92592</td>
<td>HA Check, monaural (visual &amp; listening inspections)</td>
<td></td>
<td>V5256</td>
<td>Digital ITE, monaural</td>
<td>98961</td>
<td>Education &amp; Training, 2-4 persons</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>92593</td>
<td>HA Check, binaural (visual &amp; listening inspections)</td>
<td></td>
<td>V5255</td>
<td>Digital ITC, monaural</td>
<td>98962</td>
<td>Education &amp; Training, 5-8 persons</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>92594</td>
<td>Electroacoustic Analysis, monaural</td>
<td></td>
<td>V5254</td>
<td>Digital CIC, monaural</td>
<td>V7212</td>
<td>Encounter for hearing conservation &amp; Tx</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>92595</td>
<td>Electroacoustic Analysis, binaural</td>
<td></td>
<td>V5262</td>
<td>Disposable Aid, monaural</td>
<td>99002</td>
<td>Shipping and Handling</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V5014</td>
<td>HA Repair by Mfctr., 6 mo. Warranty</td>
<td></td>
<td>V5261</td>
<td>Digital BTE, binaural</td>
<td>V5299</td>
<td>HA Extended Warranty</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V5014</td>
<td>HA Supplies/Accessories (see reverse)</td>
<td></td>
<td>V5260</td>
<td>Digital ITE, binaural</td>
<td>V5299</td>
<td>HA Extended Warranty</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V5014</td>
<td>HA Repair no charge</td>
<td></td>
<td>V5259</td>
<td>Digital CIC, binaural</td>
<td>92700</td>
<td>Cerumen Removal (IMPACTED)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V5014</td>
<td>HA Repair, in-house per ear small parts replaced</td>
<td></td>
<td>V5259</td>
<td>Digital CIC, binaural</td>
<td>98966</td>
<td>Telephone Assessment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V5014</td>
<td>HA Repair, in-house per ear small parts replaced</td>
<td></td>
<td>V5262</td>
<td>Disposable Aid, monaural</td>
<td>99002</td>
<td>Shipping and Handling</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V5014</td>
<td>HA Repair, in-house per ear small parts replaced</td>
<td></td>
<td>V5261</td>
<td>Digital BTE, binaural</td>
<td>V5299</td>
<td>HA Extended Warranty</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V5014</td>
<td>HA Supplies/Accessories (see reverse)</td>
<td></td>
<td>V5260</td>
<td>Digital ITE, binaural</td>
<td>V5299</td>
<td>HA Extended Warranty</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V5267</td>
<td>HA Supplies/Accessories (see reverse)</td>
<td></td>
<td>V5263</td>
<td>Dispensable Aid, binaural</td>
<td>98966</td>
<td>Telephone Assessment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>92590</td>
<td>HA Evaluation, monaural (Func. Comm. Assess.)</td>
<td></td>
<td>V5241</td>
<td>Dispensing Fee, monaural</td>
<td>98969</td>
<td>Online Assessment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>92591</td>
<td>HA Evaluation, binaural (Func. Comm. Assess.)</td>
<td></td>
<td>V5160</td>
<td>Dispensing Fee, binaural</td>
<td>V5266</td>
<td>Battery (6 batteries/pk)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V5275</td>
<td>Earmold Impression (each)</td>
<td></td>
<td>V5110</td>
<td>Dispensing Fee, bilateral</td>
<td>V5266</td>
<td>Battery Club Membership (8pk of 6)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V5264</td>
<td>Earmold Custom (each)</td>
<td></td>
<td>V5090</td>
<td>Dispensing Fee, unspecified aid (FM)</td>
<td>V5268</td>
<td>ALD, Telephone</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V5265</td>
<td>Earmold, Disposable (each)</td>
<td></td>
<td>V5200</td>
<td>Dispensing Fee, CROS</td>
<td>V5269</td>
<td>ALD, Alerting</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V5011</td>
<td>Fitting and Orientation of Hearing Aid(s)</td>
<td></td>
<td>V5240</td>
<td>Dispensing Fee, BICROS</td>
<td>V5270</td>
<td>ALD, TV Amplifier</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V5011</td>
<td>Fitting and Orientation of FM</td>
<td></td>
<td>V5298</td>
<td>Hearing Aid, miscellaneous</td>
<td>V5274</td>
<td>ALD, miscellaneous (e.g., FM, wireless)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V5020</td>
<td>Conformity Evaluation (Real-Ear Measures)</td>
<td></td>
<td>V5298</td>
<td>Lyric Subscription</td>
<td>V5299</td>
<td>Hearing Service Miscellaneous (Home visit)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V5014</td>
<td>Hearing Aid Reprogramming, Basic, Simple Advance</td>
<td></td>
<td>92630</td>
<td>Audiology Rehabilitation [pre-lingual]</td>
<td>V5299</td>
<td>Consult: Basic Simple Intermediate Advance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V5267</td>
<td>Musician's Earplugs Filters (each)</td>
<td></td>
<td>92633</td>
<td>Audiology Rehabilitation [post-lingual]</td>
<td>V5299</td>
<td>Consult: Basic Simple Intermediate Advance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**EAA at one year and as needed**

**Best Practice = Proactive Patient Care**
• Not all policies are in the patient’s best interest or in the best interest of the audiologist
  » Best policies provide standard benefit and allow patient to upgrade and for the provider to balance bill

• EXAMPLE: BCBS Federal
  » Utilization of a waiver where allowed so patients can upgrade technology and pay out of pocket – no surprises, it’s clear up front what patient will owe.

• We verify Insurance Coverage prior to the Hearing Aid Evaluation Appointment for every patient
  » Important to know what the policy covers;
  » Time consuming and many policies are very limiting

• Audiologists spend a lot of time discussing fees with patients. We should have similar coverages as other doctored professions, i.e., dentistry, optometry
Wholesale/Online Hearing Aid Purchases

Audiology Clinic

Online provider

Wholesale Store

Devices may be the same, but what does the patient give up?
Recommendations for the committee

- Audiologists should be defined as limited-license physicians under the Medicare program and audiologists should be viewed as the entry level of care for patients with hearing and balance disorders. Support and pass H.R. 2519, Audiology Patient Care Act.

- Insurance plans should be structured to allow patients the option to choose the level of technology they desire and all CPT and HCPCS codes for services, including audiologic rehabilitation, should be reimbursed to the audiologist at a rate that allows the provider to keep the doors open to serve their patients.

- Patients would be best served under the care of a licensed audiologist who follows AAA Guidelines for Management of Hearing Loss in Adults. In efforts to make hearing care accessible, we must not focus solely on acquiring the device, but equip the patient to successfully manage their communication difficulties.
References

• Gitles, T., (1999), Re-inventing the profession: A new model of hearing care delivery (First of two parts). Hearing Journal, 52(9), 32-34.
References (con’t)

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Stephanie Sjoblad:
ssjoblad@med.unc.edu

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Debbie Abel, Au.D.
Kim Cavitt, Au.D.
Katherine Cresante
Melissa Uhlman, Au.D
Barbara Warren, Au.D.