

Sanford Health Plan

Over the Counter Hearing Aids Frequently Asked Questions



Q: What changed recently regarding over the counter (OTC) hearing aids?

A: Starting in October 2022 the Food and Drug Administration expanded access to hearing aids by creating a new category of hearing aids: over the counter. They can be purchased through a retail or online stores. They do not require a physician or audiologist visit before purchase.

Q: What are over the counter (OTC) hearing aids?

A: OTC hearing aids were implemented to help assist adults with a mild to moderate degree of hearing loss. An OTC hearing aid may help enhance speech and provide improvements in communication for people who are able to hear well generally but experience occasional difficulty hearing.

Q: What are prescription hearing aids?

A: Devices that are purchased through an audiologist are now labeled by the FDA as prescription hearing aids. OTC hearing aids have limited loudness output and features compared with prescription hearing aids. Both categories of devices share some of the same features, however the amount of customization and functions varies greatly between them.

Q: Does my Great Plains Medicare Advantage plan have coverage for OTC hearing aids?

A: No. Your plan does not have coverage for OTC hearing aids. The plan offers coverage for prescription hearing aids, hearing exams and testing. Please refer to your Evidence of Coverage (EOC) for information regarding your hearing benefits.

Q: Should I see an audiologist before getting an OTC hearing aid?

A: An audiologist is a licensed professional who specializes in helping patients with hearing loss. While OTC devices do not require a diagnostic hearing test, they do rely on the consumer to determine if they have perceived mild to moderate hearing loss. Many people are not able to accurately determine their degree of hearing loss. A diagnostic hearing test completed with an audiologist will provide accurate information on the degree of hearing loss. An audiologist can then help you determine if OTC or prescription hearing aids are right for

your needs. Your coverage may have access to a hearing test with NationsHearing®. Refer to your Evidence of Coverage (EOC) for information regarding your hearing benefits.

Great Plains Medicare Advantage is an HMO I-SNP with a Medicare contract. Enrollment in Great Plains Medicare Advantage depends on contract renewal. Sanford Health Plan complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex, or any other classification protected under the law. This information is not a complete list of benefits. Call (844) 637-4760 (TTY: (888) 279-1549) for more information. If you need language services or information given in a different format please call (844) 637-4760 (TTY: (888) 279-1549). ATENCIÓN: si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al (844) 637-4760 (TTY: (888) 279-1549). 注意：注意：如果您使用繁體中文，您可以免費獲得語言援助服務。請致電 (844) 637-4760 (TTY: (888) 279-1549).