**King County**

**Assistive Technology for Policies and Procedures**

**For Deaf/Hard of Hearing Children**

**DRAFT--Effective JULY 1, 2022**

**Overview:**

King County will support access to assistive technology devices and services in alignment with the [Washington State ESIT Policies and Procedures](https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/ESIT-policies-procedures.pdf) (see pages 23-25) in partnership with the ESIT agencies and providers serving Deaf/Hard of Hearing (DHH) children and their families.

1. **Hearing Aid Cost Reimbursements**
2. King County ESIT will support funding for Hearing Aids via reimbursement for children when:
3. Diagnosis and need for Hearing Aids are identified/documented in IFSP;
4. Funding support for hearing aids is needed because either:
   * No other source of funding is available (Medicaid, private insurance, and other sources have been pursued and are not available—see Payor of Last Resort below); or,
   * The source of funding (such as private insurance) is less than the amount allowable for Medicaid (see information below); and
5. DHH FRC has partnered with audiologist to facilitate access and to ensure that the hearing aid has been paid for and delivered to the child.
6. Pre-approval is not necessary for Hearing Aid Reimbursement as long as ALL the steps below are followed:
   1. ESIT Agency submits an Extraordinary Expense Request Form, and attaches the following required documents to ensure reimbursement will be authorized:
      1. A copy of **child’s current IFSP including diagnosis and need** for hearing aid(s);
      2. Documentation of **referral or prescription** for hearing aid;
      3. Documentation that no other funding source is available to pay any portion of the expenses OR that the source of funding is paying less than the manufacturer’s price list or cost list, or the amount allowable for Medicaid.
      4. **Cost sheet** from manufacturer which lists the single unit published price with the specific hearing aid model circled.
      5. **Paid Invoice** that includes: child’s name, delivery date, itemized list of hearing aids, ear molds and other services (Flat Rate), and the total amount being invoiced to KCDDD.
7. King County will reimburse the ESIT agency up to the Medicaid maximum allowable, or the gap between other fund sources and the Medicaid maximum allowable, whichever is less, in accordance with the following chart:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Goods/Services** | **Definition** | **Maximum Amount\*** | **Conditions** |
| Ear molds |  | $45 per ear | Maximum 3 sets over 12 months. |
| Hearing Aid |  | Single unit published price on the manufacturer’s price list | Maximum of 2 hearing aids, if one is needed for each ear or Single Unit Price X 2 |
| Flat Rate   for Hearing Aid Related Services | Hearing aid evaluation and fittings, follow up appointments, maintenance/service agreement for one year. | $500 | If only one hearing aid is needed, the maximum is $250. Can only be billed once per child, per set of hearing aids. |
| Batteries | Not Extraordinary Expense. | $0 | No reimbursement/ not billable as EE. |

1. **FM/DM System Access**
2. King County ESIT has an obligation to ensure a child has access to an FM or DM system if it is identified as necessary on the IFSP.
3. Since King County ESIT funds a FM/DM Loaner Bank via Seattle Children’s Audiology, King County will not purchase systems for individual children 0-3 years of age.
4. The FM/DM Loaner Bank will maintain an adequate supply of loaners to ensure families can utilize an FM or DM system until the child turns three. When a child turns three, the family will return the system so that another family can borrow it.
5. The child’s DHH FRC will make a request to the FM/DM Loaner Bank and work with the Loaner Bank and other team members to acquire the correct system whether or not the child receives other audiology services from Seattle Children’s.

**C. Definitions**

* FM or DM System means remote microphone hearing assistive technology. FM uses radio waves, and DM uses digital signals.
* Hearing Aid means Behind the Ear (BTE) hearing aids, a bone conduction hearing aid, or a body worn hearing aid that is appropriate for children from birth to three years of age.
* Payor of Last Resort:Part C reimbursement must follow payer of last resort requirements.  All other funding options must have been examined and attempted prior to using Part C to pay for hearing aids or related services.  The Washington State Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA), Medicaid, and private insurance funding must be utilized prior to a Part C request.

* Single Unit Published Price means the amount on the manufacturer’s price list, also called a cost list.  These price lists are updated frequently.  The single unit published price is not the suggested retail price.