



Government of India
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
Department of Health & Family Welfare
Nirman Bhawan, Maulana Azad Road
New Delhi 110 108

F. No: 6-469/2003-CGHS/R&H

Date: 12 June, 2009


OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Reimbursement of the cost of cochlear implant to beneficiaries under CGHS / Central Services (Medical Attendance) Rules, 1944.

The undersigned is directed to state that the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has been received requests from CGHS beneficiaries and beneficiaries under Central Services (Medical Attendance) Rules, 1944, requesting for permission to be given for a dependant family member to undergo cochlear implant surgery. Each request for considered 'on merits' of each case and permission granted by the Central Government Health Scheme in each case. This was mainly because there were no guidelines for for considering requests for cochlear implant surgery. The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, therefore, had the matter considered the matter by a Committee of specialists and it has been decided to permit the beneficiaries under CGHS and Central Services (Medical Attendance) Rules, 1944 undergo cochlear implant surgeries, as per the guidelines outlined below:

GUIDELINES FOR COCHLEAR IMPLANT SURGERY

1. **Selection criteria for cochlear implant:**
 - (i) Prelingually deaf children (severe to profound B/L, S. N. H. loss)
 - (a) Age group between 1 to 16 years. However, children using hearing aids and getting auditory training from age 1 years of less may be considered at higher age also on a case to case basis;
 - (b) No appreciable benefit from hearing aids after 6 months of trial with hearing aids. No speech formation seen;
 - (c) No mental retardation;
 - (d) No active middle ear cleft disease. Perforation of the TM should be closed at least three months prior to implantation;
 - (e) No cochlear aplasia and / or agenesis of cochlear nerve;
 - (f) No retro cochlear lesion or central deafness; and


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- (g) Good family support for post op rehabilitation.
- (ii) Post-lingually deaf candidates (B / L profound S. N. H. loss)
 - (a) There should be no appreciable benefit from hearing aids (both ears);
 - (b) No active middle ear cleft disease;
 - (c) Perforation of the TM should be repaired three months prior to the implantation;
 - (d) Deafness should be due to cochlear lesions; and
 - (e) Post meningitic labyrinthitis ossificans of the cochlea is a contraindication. However, cases like post inflammatory ossification of cochlea, cochlear dystrophies and cochlear otosclerosis with visible perilymphatic shadow in MRI are relative indications and can be done on case to case basis.

2. **Type of implants:**

Only multi-channel cochlear implant duly approved by appropriate authority should be recommended.

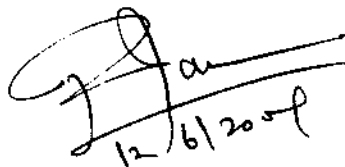
3. **Implant Centres and Standing Committee:**

Cochlear implant surgery should be allowed only in Government hospitals / Centres having proper post operative rehabilitation. These centres should have well trained speech therapist related to cochlear implant.

The reimbursement for cochlear implant surgery will be permitted only after the request has been approved and recommended by a standing committee, comprising of the following:

- | | | | |
|-----|--|-----|----------|
| (1) | Addl DG, CGHS / DDG (M) (as the case may be) | ... | Chairman |
| (2) | HOD, ENT, Dr. R. M. L. Hospital | ... | Member |
| (3) | HOD, ENT, Safdarjung Hospital | ... | Member |
| (4) | HOD, ENT, LHMC & Smt S. K. Hospital | ... | Member |

The request for cochlear implants should be accompanied by complete clinical details and report of relevant investigations as below and independent opinion from two ENT specialists of Government Hospitals undertaking cochlear implant surgery about indications for cochlear implant surgery.


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4. **Basic pre-op Investigations for Cochlear Implant:**

(a) **Audiological:**

- (1) OAE
- (2) BERA / ASSR
- (3) Impedence (in children)
- (4) Audigram / Aided audiogram

(b) **Radiological:**

- (1) HRCT temporal bone for bony cochlea and middle ear cleft;
- (2) 3D NRI for membranous cochlea, Neural Bundle and brain; and

(c) IQ / Psychiatric evaluation in children with prelingual deafness.

5. **Ceiling Rate:**

The ceiling rate for cochlear implant shall be Rs. 5,35,000/- (Rupees Five lakh thirty five thousand only) for reimbursement of cost of cochlear implant with 12 channels / 24 electrodes with behind the ear speech processor.

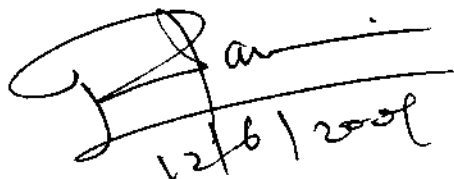
The best results are achieved if cochlear implants take place between the age of 1 – 5 years. Hence, it is, therefore, proposed to permit reimbursement in a graded manner. In the pre-lingual deafness, total reimbursement of the ceiling rate or actuals, whichever is less, for cochlear implant will be allowed in respect of implants carried out on children aged between 1 and 5 years. For children between the age of 5 and 10 years, 80% of the ceiling rate for implant will be reimbursed. For children above the age of 10 years, but below 16 years of age, only 50% of the ceiling rate for the implant will be reimbursed.

50% of the cost of the wearable components, e.g. Speech Processor, Microphone, etc. (excluding cords, batteries) for the purpose of up-gradation and / or replacement due to wear and tear may be allowed, after a period of three years, to be considered on the basis of advice of two ENT surgeons of Government sector and on the recommendations of the standing committee.

6. Only Unilateral implantation will be allowed.

7. As Cochlear implant surgery is a planned surgery, prior permission has to be obtained before the surgery is undertaken.

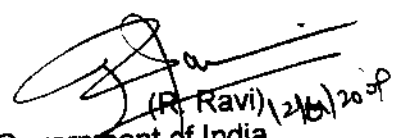
8. Pensioner CGHS beneficiaries and serving employees, who are CGHS beneficiaries, may submit their requests for permission for cochlear implant to the Director, CGHS. Central Government employees who are beneficiaries under Central


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Services (Medical Attendance) Rules, 1944, may submit their requests for permission, to MG II Section, Directorate General of Health Services, Nirman Bhawan, Maulana Azad Road, New Delhi 110 108.

9. These instructions take effect from the date of issue of the Office Memorandum.

10. This issues with the concurrence of IFD, vide their Dy. No: 494/AS & FA/2009 dated the 24th January, 2008.


(R. Ravi) 24/1/2009

Deputy Secretary to the Government of India
[Tel: 2306 3483]

To

1. All Ministries / Departments of Government of India
2. Director, CGHS, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi
3. All Pay & Accounts Officers under CGHS
4. Additional Directors / Joint Directors of CGHS
5. JD(Gr.) / JD(R&H), CGHS, Delhi
6. CGHS Desk-I/Desk-II/CGHS-I/CGHS-II, Dte. GHS, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi
7. Estt. I / Estt. II / Estt. III / Estt. IV Sections, Min. of Health & Family Welfare
8. Admn. I / Admn. II Sections of Dte.GHS
9. M.S. Section, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
10. Rajya Sabha / Lok Sabha Secretariat
11. Registrar, Supreme Court of India / Delhi High Court, Sher Shah Road, New Delhi
12. U.P.S.C.
13. Finance Division, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
14. Deputy Secretary (Civil Service News), Department of Personnel & Training, 5th Floor, Sardar Patel Bhawan, New Delhi
15. PPS to Secretary (H&FW) / Secretary (Aids Control)
16. PPS to DGHS / AS&FA / AS (GCC) & MD, NRHM / AS (VV)
17. Swamy Publishers (P) Ltd., P. B. No.2468, R. A. Puram, Chennai- 600028.
18. M/s Bahri Brothers, 742 Lajpat Rai Market, Delhi 110 006
19. Shri Umraomal Purohit, Secretary, Staff Side, 13-C, Ferozshah Road, N. Delhi - 110001.
20. All Staff Side members of National Council (JCM).
21. Office of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India, 10 Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi.
22. All Officers / Sections / Desks in the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
23. NIC, Nirman Bhawan with the request that the Office Memorandum be uploaded in the website of CGHS and under CS (MA) Rules.
24. Office Order folder
25. Guard file