

Audiology Services



SPECIALIZED CARE FOR CHILDREN

Covered Services

Care Coordination: The University of Illinois at Chicago's Division of Specialized Care for Children (DSCC) provides care coordination services to families. DSCC has regional offices throughout the state that serve families in their local communities. Our care coordination is tailored to each family and focused on their specific goals and strengths. It can include finding specialized medical care, helping families understand their child's medical treatment plan, explaining insurance benefits and attending school meetings.



Diagnostic Services: Diagnostic services include support of audiological (hearing) testing and medical evaluations by DSCC-enrolled providers. The hearing testing supported includes tests needed to determine medical eligibility [hearing loss of 30 decibels (dB) or greater in any two of the following frequencies: 500, 1000, 2000, 4000, and 8000 Hertz (Hz) or hearing loss of 35 dB or greater at any one of the following frequencies: 500, 1000, and 2000 Hz for one or both ears.] Hearing testing may include behavioral and pure tone audiometry, immittance and/or electrophysiological testing (e.g., Auditory Brainstem Response).

Treatment Services: Treatment services supported by DSCC for children with hearing loss include examinations by an enrolled otolaryngologist to develop a medical treatment plan; hearing testing by an enrolled audiologist; hearing aids, fittings, follow-up, repairs, and hearing aid supplies; and surgery.

For children with a cochlear implant, a hearing aid for the non-implanted ear may be covered when recommended by the child's medical team. Bilateral cochlear implants may be supported.



Referral Process

Referrals to DSCC are easy. Just visit us online at <https://dsc.uic.edu/for-providers/refer-a-family/> or call (800) 322-3722.

Visit our Website at: dsc.uic.edu

Eligibility



Care Coordination: Children with medically eligible conditions receive care coordination services regardless of income.

Diagnostic Services: Initial evaluation services are provided to the extent medically necessary to determine if the child has a medically eligible condition. Any public or private insurance available to the child is to be used and maximized first. Services are available to an applicant who is under 21 years of age and is an Illinois resident. Children eligible for diagnostic services to confirm a hearing loss must have failed a hearing screening (newborn, preschool or school age) or be demonstrating behaviors of a hearing loss. DSCC does not pay for hearing screenings or monitoring of children “at risk” for a hearing loss.

Eligibility: To be eligible for treatment services, children must meet all program eligibility requirements. These requirements include age, residency, medical eligibility, and meeting DSCC’s income guidelines. If uninsured, DSCC can help the family apply for All Kids/Medicaid.

A child with a cholesteatoma with or without a hearing loss may be medically eligible.

Services/Payment Rates

Audiologic and otologic diagnostic and treatment services are paid by CPT codes with set fees. There are no restrictions on ICD-10 codes or CPT codes used for billing. Hearing aids and related supplies are paid up to the established maximum. Providers interested in knowing the maximum allowable reimbursement for hearing aids can call (800) 322-3722.

Payment for infants receiving diagnostic services as the result of failed newborn hearing screening shortly after birth is made when the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Diagnostic Evaluation Summary form (3.45) is received from a DSCC-enrolled audiologist or otolaryngologist within 30 days of the evaluation.

Hearing instruments through DSCC:

- DSCC supports the most cost-effective hearing aid that meets the child’s medical needs.
- Fees for earmolds should include earmold impressions.
- All aids purchased must have a two-year repair and two-year loss and damage warranty. If the hearing aid comes standard with a one-year warranty, the audiologist should include the cost of the second year warranty in the usual and customary charge for the hearing aid when billing. The inclusion of this fee is subject to the maximum reimbursement limits.

The Care Coordinator monitors the use of resources toward an overall cap and works with the family in the use of available dollars.

Reimbursement/Insurance

Insurance, including All Kids/Medicaid, must be maximized first. DSCC support is payment of last resort.

For More Information

(217) 558-2350 (Voice) • (800) 322-3722 (Toll Free) • (217) 785-4728 (TTY)