

coverage for hearing aids ~~and related treatment~~ for children.

BY adding to

Article - Insurance

Section 15-837

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1997 Volume and 2000 Supplement)

BY adding to

Article - Health - General

Section 19-706(rr)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2000 Replacement Volume)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article - Insurance

15-837.

(A) IN THIS SECTION, "HEARING AID" MEANS A DEVICE THAT:

(1) IS OF A DESIGN AND CIRCUITRY TO OPTIMIZE AUDIBILITY AND LISTENING SKILLS IN THE ENVIRONMENT COMMONLY EXPERIENCED BY CHILDREN; AND

(2) ~~MEETS OR EXCEEDS THE FOLLOWING STANDARDS - MULTIPLE BAND, WIDE DYNAMIC RANGE COMPRESSION, AND DIRECT AUDIO INPUT COMPATIBILITY IS NONDISPOSABLE.~~

(B) THIS SECTION APPLIES TO:

(1) INSURERS AND NONPROFIT HEALTH SERVICE PLANS THAT PROVIDE HOSPITAL, MEDICAL, OR SURGICAL BENEFITS TO INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS ON AN EXPENSE-INCURRED BASIS UNDER HEALTH INSURANCE POLICIES OR CONTRACTS THAT ARE ISSUED OR DELIVERED IN THE STATE; AND

(2) HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATIONS THAT PROVIDE HOSPITAL, MEDICAL, OR SURGICAL BENEFITS TO INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS UNDER CONTRACTS THAT ARE ISSUED OR DELIVERED IN THE STATE.

(C) (1) AN ENTITY SUBJECT TO THIS SECTION SHALL PROVIDE COVERAGE FOR HEARING AIDS FOR A MINOR CHILD WHO IS COVERED ~~THROUGH AN INSURED OR ENROLLED PARENT OF THE CHILD~~ UNDER A POLICY OR CONTRACT IF THE HEARING ~~AID IS~~ AIDS ARE PRESCRIBED, FITTED, AND DISPENSED BY A LICENSED AUDIOLOGIST.

(2) ~~AN ENTITY SUBJECT TO THIS SECTION SHALL PROVIDE COVERAGE FOR REPLACEMENT HEARING AIDS FOR THE CHILD AT LEAST ONCE EVERY 2 YEARS~~
(1) AN ENTITY SUBJECT TO THIS SECTION MAY LIMIT THE BENEFIT PAYABLE UNDER