CHAPTER 4
SECTION 22.2

COCHLEAR IMPLANTATION

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I. CPT[1] PROCEDURE CODES

69930, 92510

II. DESCRIPTION

A cochlear implant device is an electronic instrument, part of which is implanted surgically to stimulate auditory nerve fibers, and part of which is worn or carried by the individual to capture and amplify sound. Cochlear implant devices are available in single channel and multi-channel models. The purpose of implanting the device is to provide an awareness and identification of sounds and to facilitate communication for persons who are profoundly hearing impaired.

III. POLICY

A. Cochlear implantation using FDA-approved cochlear implants and when used according to approved indications is a covered benefit.

B. For those individuals who have a single channel device and do not have open set discrimination, extending cochlear implant candidacy to second ear is covered.

C. Replacement of the cochlear implant external speech processor device is covered.

IV. EXCLUSIONS

A. Cochlear implantation is contraindicated when preoperative radiographic evidence indicates an underdeveloped internal auditory canal, the absence of cochlear development or a physical condition which precludes placement of the electrode array or receiver-stimulator (e.g., cochlear ossification that prevents electrode insertion).

B. Cochlear implantation is contraindicated when there is a middle ear infection, the coclear lumen is structurally unsuited to implantation, or there is a lesion in the auditor nerve or acoustic area of the central nervous system.

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C. Cochlear implantation may not be cost-shared when there is a contraindication to surgery and implantation, such as poor anesthetic risk, severe mental retardation, severe psychiatric disorders, and organic brain syndrome.

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