



COUNCIL FOR MEDICAL SCHEMES

**Private Bag X34, HATFIELD, 0028
Hadefields Block E, 1267 Pretorius Street, HATFIELD**

Phone: +27 (0) 12 431-0500

Fax: +27 (0) 12 430-7644

[Http://www.medicalschemes.com](http://www.medicalschemes.com)

**To:
All medical schemes, administrators, health
care provider organizations and other
interested parties**

Telephone: 012 431 0507 / 033 701 1693

Fax: 012 430 7644 / 033 701 1695

Enquiries: Stephen Harrison

Date: 27 September 2004

CIRCULAR 44 OF 2004

NATIONAL HEALTH REFERENCE PRICE LIST 2005:

SPEECH THERAPY AND AUDIOLOGY SCHEDULE

1. Attached is the draft 2005 National Health Reference Price List (NHRPL) schedule for speech therapy and audiology. Comments on this schedule are requested by no later than **4 October 2004**. The major changes in the schedule from the NHRPL 2004, as well as some of the principal reasoning behind the changes, are described below.
2. Note: in the "status" column of the schedule:
 - a. "C" denotes "current," meaning there has been no change to item description or unit value;
 - b. "U" denotes "updated";
 - c. "A" denotes "added."
3. **Structure, pricing and impact**
 - a. The South African Speech Language Hearing Association (SASLHA) and the South African Association of Audiologists (SAAA) commissioned a study to review underlying cost structures in speech therapy and audiology practice. The results of this study were reviewed by ourselves, resulting in certain changes for NHRPL 2005 in relation to the value of assessment, consultation and treatment (non-procedure) codes.
 - b. Codes 001, 003, 004, 005, 006, 011 and 012 have been collapsed into a time-based series of codes 200 to 208, which we believe will more accurately reflect the value of actual time spent with the patient. Note the proviso though that the time used to conduct any diagnostic or treatment procedure claimed in addition to the codes in this

Chairperson: Prof. Nicky Padayachee Vice-Chairperson: Ms Gando Matyumza Chief Executive & Registrar: Patrick Masobe

series, can not be considered in determining the duration of the assessment, consultation or treatment claimed.

- a. The 200 to 208 series is divided into time-based codes of 10 minute intervals, with the value allocated to the interval being the value of the mid-point of the interval.
- b. A decay factor of 50% was introduced from the 41 to 50 minute interval onwards, to disincentivise unnecessary or inappropriate extension of consultation or therapy sessions.
- c. An inflator of 5.2% was applied to remaining codes, which is equivalent to the CPIX projection for 2005.
- d. When adjusted for utilization using a combined database of Medscheme, Discovery and MxHealth data, we project the overall impact on expenditure on speech therapists and audiologists of these changes to be a **16.08%** increase on 2004 expenditure on speech therapists and audiologists based on the 2004 NHRPL.

4. Deletion of preambles and Rule C

The preamble wording, as well as rule C, have been deleted, as these items are considered to be inappropriate for inclusion in a reference price list. Should schemes wish to incorporate similar wording in their rules, they are at liberty to do so.

5. New rule A

Note the inclusion of the new rule A, which has been added to create consistency with other schedules.

6. New item 300 and rule E

- a. Note the inclusion of the new item 300 and rule E.
- b. By including these items, we have given acknowledgment to the principle that there are certain costs associated with storage, shipment and handling of appliances and materials.
- c. We do not, however accept that a mark-up on these items should be a source of profit to practitioners, and beyond a certain base amount, we believe that the handling cost component is not and should not be proportional to the value of the item. In the absence of solid and standardized data on actual input costs, we have chosen to rely on the model applied in the regulations pertaining to the dispensing of medicines.

7. Item 023

2004 wording:

"Other tests (Sisi, Stenger, Tone Decay, Reflex Latency) per test. (3278)"

Draft 2005 wording:

"Other tests: Tone Decay, Reflex Decay, Sisi, MCL & UCL (Speech and Pure Tone), Eustachian Tube Function, Stenger, Rinne & Weber tests; per test (3278). Individual tests done in terms of item 023 must be specified."

Reasoning:

The need for additional tests beyond the original list was accepted, with the new proviso that individual tests must be specified, to allow for review.

8. Item 025

2004 wording:

"Peripheral Hearing Testing of Babies. This item to be used when visual reinforcement audiometry and/or combined play audiometry techniques are employed in a sound field environment to assess the peripheral hearing of babies."

Draft 2005 wording:

"Visual reinforcement audiometry and/or combined play audiometry employed in a sound field environment to assess peripheral hearing"

Reasoning:

The restriction to babies created problems when claiming for the procedure legitimately performed on disabled older children or adults. The new wording more appropriately describes the procedure.

9. Items 033 and 037

2004 wording:

033: "Electro-nystagmography for spontaneous and positional nystagmus. (3253)"

037: "Electrocochleography or Videonystagmoscopy: Unilateral (2699)"

2005 wording:

Chairperson: Prof. Nicky Padayachee Vice-Chairperson: Ms Gando Matyumza Chief Executive & Registrar: Patrick Masobe

033: "Electro-nystagmography (ENG) OR Video-nystagmography (VNG) for spontaneous and positional nystagmus. (3253)

037: "Electrocochleography: Unilateral (2699)"

Reasoning:

Video-nystagmography was erroneously included in 037 as opposed to 033 in the 2004 NHRPL.

10. Items 052 and 054

2004 wording:

052: "Technical adjustment or replacement of behind-the-ear earmolds, per ear. (Specify the ear)"

054: "Technical adjustment or replacement of in-the-ear/canal moulds, per ear (Specify ear)"

2005 wording:

052: "Technical adjustment of hearing aid/device, per ear"

054: "Re-programming of hearing aid, per ear"

Reasoning:

The distinction more accurately describes the procedures involved, and allows for more appropriate billing.

11. Item 009

2004 wording:

"Home programmes, per month. Note: This category is in lieu of active therapy to discuss the home programme."

2005 wording:

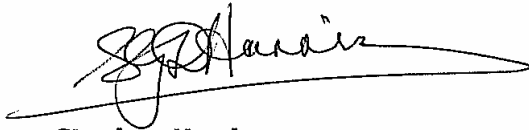
"Preparation of a home programme. Note: This category is to prepare the home programme prior to consultation with patient or care giver."

Reasoning:

The wording change here acknowledges the time spent in preparing a home programme in preparation for consultations. The "per month" limitation is regarded as a benefit limitation and

inappropriate for inclusion in a reference price list. Schemes wishing to maintain such benefit limits are advised to do so in their rules.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Harrison', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Stephen Harrison
SENIOR SPECIALIST: POLICY AND SPECIAL PROJECTS

Speech Therapists and Audiologists 2005



NATIONAL REFERENCE PRICE LIST FOR SERVICES BY SPEECH THERAPISTS AND AUDIOLOGISTS, EFFECTIVE FROM 1 JANUARY 2005

The following reference price list is not a set of tariffs that must be applied by medical schemes and/or providers. It is rather intended to serve as a baseline against which medical schemes can individually determine benefit levels and health service providers can individually determine fees charged to patients. Medical schemes may, for example, determine in their rules that their benefit in respect of a particular health service is equivalent to a specified percentage of the national health reference price list. It is especially intended to serve as a basis for negotiation between individual funders and individual health care providers with a view to facilitating agreements which will minimise balance billing against members of medical schemes. Should individual medical schemes wish to determine benefit structures, and individual providers determine fee structures, on some other basis without reference to this list, they may do so as well.

In calculating the prices in this schedule, the following rounding method is used: Values R10 and below rounded to the nearest cent, R10+ rounded to the nearest 10cent. Modifier values are rounded to the nearest cent. When new item prices are calculated, e.g. when applying a modifier, the same rounding scheme should be followed.

VAT EXCLUSIVE PRICES APPEAR IN BRACKETS.

General Rules

A	All accounts must be presented with the following information clearly stated: · name of practitioner · qualifications of the practitioner; · BHF practice number; · postal address and telephone number; · date on which service(s) were provided; · The relevant diagnostic codes and NHRPL item code numbers relating to the health service rendered; · the surname and initials of the member; · the first name of the patient; · the name of the scheme; · the membership number of the member; and · the name and practice number of the referring practitioner, if applicable.			U
B	The rate in respect of more than one evaluation under item 029 shall be the full rate for the first evaluation plus half the rate in respect of each additional evaluation, but under no circumstances may fees be charged for more than three evaluations carried out.			C
D	It is recommended that, when such benefits are granted, drugs, consumables and disposable items used during a procedure or issued to a patient on discharge will only be reimbursed by a medical scheme if the appropriate code is supplied on the account.			C
E	Materials used in treatment shall be charged (exclusive of VAT) at net acquisition price plus – - 26% of the net acquisition price where the net acquisition price of that material is less than one hundred rands; - a maximum of twenty six rands where the net acquisition price of that material is greater than or equal to one hundred rands. Use item 300 for this purpose.			A

ITEMS

Assessment, Consultation & Treatment

	The time used to conduct any diagnostic or treatment procedure claimed in addition to the codes in this section, can not be considered in determining the duration of the assessment, consultation or treatment claimed			
	Only a single item from this section may be charged per patient encounter			
Code	Description	RVU	Price	Status
200	Speech/audiology assessment, consultation or treatment. Duration: 1-10min.	2.46	22.30 (19.60)	A



Speech Therapists and Audiologists 2005

201	Speech/audiology assessment, consultation or treatment. Duration: 11-20min.	7.38	67.00 (58.80)	A
202	Speech/audiology assessment, consultation or treatment. Duration: 21-30min.	12.30	111.70 (98.00)	A
203	Speech/audiology assessment, consultation or treatment. Duration: 31-40min.	17.22	156.40 (137.20)	A
204	Speech/audiology assessment, consultation or treatment. Duration: 41-50min.	19.68	178.70 (156.80)	A
205	Speech/audiology assessment, consultation or treatment. Duration: 51-60min.	22.14	201.00 (176.30)	A
206	Speech/audiology assessment, consultation or treatment. Duration: 61-70min.	24.59	223.30 (195.90)	A
207	Speech/audiology assessment, consultation or treatment. Duration: 71-80min.	27.05	245.60 (215.40)	A
208	Speech/audiology assessment, consultation or treatment. Duration: 81-90min.	29.51	268.00 (235.10)	A
Speech, Voice and Language Disorder				
007	Group therapy: per patient at rooms (Maximum of 3 patients per therapy)	4.10	37.20 (32.60)	C
	Note: Professional Group Consultations - no fee to be charged.			
009	Preparation of a home programme	5.00	45.40 (39.80)	U
	Note: This category is to prepare the home programme prior to consultation with patient or care giver			
107	Appointment not kept (schemes will not necessarily grant benefits in respect of this item, it will fall into the "By arrangement with the scheme" or "Patient own account" category).	0.00	- (-)	C
Audiology.				
	Items 013, 015, 017, 018, 021 and 022 may not be used for Industrial Hearing Assessment - Refer to items 100 - 110			
013	Pure Tone Audiogram (Air conduction). (3273)	4.50	40.90 (35.90)	C
015	Pure Tone Audiogram (Bone conduction). (3274)	4.50	40.90 (35.90)	C
017	Full Speech Audiogram including speech reception threshold and discrimination at two or more levels. (3277)	7.00	63.60 (55.80)	C
018	Speech audiogram screening.	4.40	40.00 (35.10)	C
021	Immittance Measurements (Impedance) (Tympanometry).	4.50	40.90 (35.90)	C
022	Immittance Measurements (Impedance) (Stapedial reflex). (3276)	4.50	40.90 (35.90)	C
023	Other tests: Tone Decay, Reflex Decay, Sisi, MCL & UCL (Speech and Pure Tone), Eustachian Tube Function, Stenger, Rinne & Weber tests; per test (3278)	4.50	40.90 (35.90)	U
	Individual tests done in terms of item 023 must be specified.			
025	Visual reinforcement audiometry and/or combined play audiometry employed in a sound field environment to assess peripheral hearing	17.70	160.70 (141.00)	U
029	Hearing Aid Evaluation, per ear (refer to General Rule B).	6.40	58.10 (51.00)	C
030	Short latency brainstem evoked potentials, neurological examination, single decibel, bilateral. (2692)	61.20	555.70 (487.50)	C
031	A.E.P. (ABR) Full Audiological examination (bilateral). (2694)	73.00	662.80 (581.40)	C
032	Bilateral mid or long latency auditory evoked potentials. (2698)	36.80	334.10 (293.10)	C
033	Electro-nystagmography (ENG) OR Video-nystagmography (VNG) for spontaneous and positional nystagmus. (3253)	17.40	158.00 (138.60)	U
035	Caloric test done with electro-nystagmography. (3255)	48.70	442.20 (387.90)	C
036	Oto-acoustic emissions, comprehensive diagnostic evaluation.	30.80	279.70 (245.40)	C



Speech Therapists and Audiologists 2005

037	Electrocochleography: Unilateral (2699)	34.80	316.00 (277.20)	U
038	Bilateral (2700)	61.20	555.70 (487.50)	C
039	Oto-acoustic emissions - limited (single stimulus level, either transient or distortion product) for the use in universal screening programmes of babies in hospital maternity units or rooms. (NOT TO BE USED FOR SCREENING IN SCHOOLS OR INDUSTRY)	10.30	93.50 (82.00)	C
041	Cochlea Implants: Pre-implant round window promontory testing (Subject to pre-authorisation and motivation by ENT Specialist)	33.80	306.90 (269.20)	C
042	Cochlea Implants: Full electrode (i.e. 24 electrodes) mapping (approx. 1 hour) (Subject to pre-authorisation and motivation by ENT Specialist)	20.00	181.60 (159.30)	C
043	Cochlea Implants: Subsequent electrode mapping (approx. 30 minutes) (Subject to pre-authorisation and motivation from ENT Specialist)	10.00	90.80 (79.60)	C
046	Facial nerve function test (3224)	34.80	316.00 (277.20)	C
047	Test battery for Central Auditory Processing Disorders. Minimum of two tests - tests to be specified.	13.30	120.80 (106.00)	C
048	Cochlea Implant; Implant test; Four test modes (Subject to motivation by ENT specialist)	4.50	40.90 (35.90)	C
049	Cochlea Implant; Neural Response Telemetry (Subject to motivation by ENT specialist)	73.00	662.80 (581.40)	C
050	Cochlea Implant: Electrical Stapedius Reflex Thresholds (Subject to motivation by ENT specialists)	36.90	335.10 (293.90)	C
051	Global charge for supply and fitting of hearing aid and follow-up (By arrangement with scheme).	0.00	- (-)	C
052	Technical adjustment of hearing aid/device, per ear.	4.80	43.60 (38.20)	U
053	Insertion gain measurement, per ear.	4.90	44.50 (39.00)	C
054	Re-programming of hearing aid, per ear	9.60	87.20 (76.50)	U
057	Repairs to hearing aids. Ex gratia by arrangement with each scheme.	0.00	- (-)	C
Industrial Hearing Assessment				
100	Pure Tone Audiogram (Air conduction). (3237)	0.00	- (-)	C
102	Pure Tone Audiogram (Bone conduction) (3274)	0.00	- (-)	C
104	Full Speech Audiogram including speech reception threshold and discrimination at two or more levels (3277)	0.00	- (-)	C
106	Speech audiogram screening	0.00	- (-)	C
108	Immittance Measurements (Impedance) (Tympanometry)	0.00	- (-)	C
110	Immittance Measurements (Impedance) (Stapedial reflex) (3276)	0.00	- (-)	C
Material				
300	Medication / material			A

