

# Cochlear implant fact sheet



## What is a cochlear implant

- Cochlear implants are surgically implanted medical devices that treat hearing loss by replacing the function of damaged sensory hair cells inside the inner ear (cochlea) and have been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for nearly 40 years.
- Cochlear implants are a proven medical treatment option for those with severe to profound hearing loss, and cochlear implants can be the most appropriate option to effectively treat the loss at that point.
- Cochlear implants can help those with moderate to profound hearing loss in both ears who are not receiving enough benefit when using hearing aids.
- Cochlear implants are covered by Medicare, most insurance plans and typically Medicaid.\*

## Hearing loss in adults

Hearing loss becomes more common as we age. Almost two in three adults above 60 years of age experience some degree of hearing decline. This rises to nearly 90% of people aged 80 and older.<sup>1-2</sup>

- If hearing loss has progressed beyond receiving benefit from a hearing aid, cochlear implants could help.
- The average age for adults receiving a cochlear implant is 65, with a range of 18 to 100+ years.<sup>3</sup>
- Research studies have shown that adults receiving cochlear implants understand sentences on average almost seven times better than they could with hearing aids.<sup>4</sup>
- Hearing clearly as you age can help keep your mind sharp. And by maintaining your ability to think, learn, and remember, you can make the most of all life's opportunities.<sup>5-8</sup>

## Hearing loss in pediatrics\*\*

- According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, approximately 3 in 1,000 infants are born deaf or hard of hearing.<sup>9</sup>
- Cochlear implants are the established treatment for children as young as 9 months with bilateral profound sensorineural hearing loss.<sup>10</sup>
- Providing a child access to sound when a hearing loss is first detected is very important. Early access to sound and proper treatment can allow a child's speech and language development to be on par with their hearing peers.<sup>11,12</sup>
- Up to 80% of children who received cochlear implants younger than 12 months of age demonstrated receptive vocabulary knowledge within the normal range by school entry.<sup>10</sup>
- There is a substantial cost savings for individuals who receive cochlear implants. This is primarily driven by higher earning potential and reduced educational costs compared to individuals with similar levels of hearing loss, who do not pursue cochlear implants.<sup>13</sup>

## References

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\*Covered for Medicare beneficiaries who meet CMS criteria for coverage. Coverage for adult Medicaid recipients varies according to state specific guidelines. Contact your insurance provider or hearing implant specialist to determine your eligibility for coverage.

\*\* The Nucleus 24 cochlear implant system is intended for use in children 9 to 24 months of age who have bilateral profound sensorineural deafness and demonstrate limited benefit from appropriate binaural hearing aids. Children two years of age or older may demonstrate severe to profound hearing loss bilaterally. In younger children, limited benefit is defined as lack of progress in the development of simple auditory skills in conjunction with appropriate amplification and participation in intensive aural habilitation over a three to six-month period. It is recommended that limited benefit be quantified on a measure such as the Meaningful Auditory Integration Scale or the Early Speech Perception test. In older children, limited benefit is defined as  $\leq 30\%$  correct on the open set Multisyllabic Lexical Neighborhood Test (MLNT) or Lexical Neighborhood Test (LNT), depending upon the child's cognitive and linguistic skills. A three to six-month hearing aid trial is recommended for children without previous aided experience.

Please seek advice from your health professional about treatments for hearing loss. Outcomes may vary, and your health professional will advise you about the factors which could affect your outcome. Always read the instructions for use. Not all products are available in all countries. Please contact your local Cochlear representative for product information.

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