Regular hearing exams are an important habit for good health. Hearing loss is striking at younger ages than ever before: an estimated 65 percent of our hearing impaired population is below retirement age. That’s why Cornell University wants you to have access to a wellness benefit that helps protect and preserve your hearing.

**Hearing Exam Benefit:** You are eligible for up to a $75 allowance per benefit period for a comprehensive hearing exam.

**Hearing Aid Benefit:** The plan pays 50 percent of the hearing aid cost up to the maximum benefit amount. The benefit amount is progressive, rewarding you with an amount that increases over time based on your effective date.

### Hearing Aid Maximum Benefit

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>$400 per ear</th>
<th>$600 per ear</th>
<th>$800 per ear</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>$400 per ear</td>
<td>$600 per ear</td>
<td>$800 per ear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>$600 per ear</td>
<td>$800 per ear</td>
<td>$1000 per ear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3+</td>
<td>$800 per ear</td>
<td>$1000 per ear</td>
<td>$1200 per ear</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Once you use your hearing aid coverage at any level, you become re-eligible for the benefit, at the $800 per ear benefit maximum, after five years as long as there is no break in coverage. A reduced benefit is available after three years if your hearing suffers deterioration the current aids can’t correct, as long as there is no break in coverage.

**Hearing Aid Maintenance Benefit:** You are eligible for up to a $40 allowance per benefit period. This benefit is designed to cover maintenance, batteries, service contracts, fittings, ear molds and repairs.

**SoundCare members pay no copay for hearing exams, hearing aids or hearing aid maintenance.**

**An Additional Resource:** When you call us to use your SoundCare benefits, we’ll offer you the option of speaking with a trained EPIC Hearing Health Care counselor. If you choose to use this independent resource, it can help make finding and receiving hearing care easier.

EPIC offers a nationwide alliance of ear physicians, ENTs and audiologists for expert hearing evaluations and treatments. Their counselor will help you find an EPIC alliance provider, schedule an exam, receive treatment if needed, submit your claim and more. And, when assistive devices are needed, EPIC’s purchasing arrangements with major hearing device manufacturers can mean substantial cost savings for you.
how to use your SoundCare benefits

Call 877-359-8346 to speak to a SoundCare customer service representative. We’ll offer you the option of working with an EPIC Hearing Health Care counselor. Your SoundCare benefits are the same whether you opt to use an EPIC provider or not. The advantage of seeking services through an EPIC provider is that they may be able to offer better pricing on hearing devices, and you don’t have to file any claim forms.

### Steps to take when selecting services from an EPIC provider

- An EPIC hearing counselor will work with you to locate an alliance provider in your area. EPIC will send you a packet of information.
- Once you are evaluated by the EPIC provider, the provider will coordinate your care directly with EPIC.
- You will not need to complete or submit a claim form. EPIC will submit the claims directly to Ameritas for you, including for the ordering of your hearing devices.*
- EPIC can typically offer you discounts on your hearing devices. You are responsible for paying any remaining balance due directly to the EPIC provider after your SoundCare benefits have been applied.

### Steps to take when selecting services from a provider not affiliated with EPIC

- Select a provider of your choice and make an appointment with them directly.
- Obtain a SoundCare claim form at www.ameritas.com/group/olbc/cornell. Take the claim form with you to your hearing appointment.
- You complete Part 1 of the form and your provider completes Part 2. You or your hearing Provider must send the claim form to: Ameritas Life Insurance Corp of NY Claims Office, P.O. Box 82595, Lincoln, NE 68501.
- You are responsible for paying any remaining balance due directly to your provider after your SoundCare benefits have been applied.*

* Insurance benefits for hearing aids are not payable until the expiration of a 45-day trial period. The trial period is required by state mandate unless the member signs a waiver stating they are satisfied with their hearing aids.