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POSITION STATEMENT

Medicare Coverage of the Cost of Hearing Aids and Hearing Health Services

Synopsis: HLAA recommends that the Medicare program cover costs of acquiring and successfully using hearing aids.

Nearly half of Americans age 65 and over have clinically significant hearing loss that threatens their health and well-being. Medicare, the federal program that provides health insurance to Americans age 65 and over, does not cover most hearing health services, including the cost of acquiring hearing aids.

HLAA's mission is to open the world of communication to people with hearing loss. To meet that mission, HLAA supports amending Title XVIII of the Social Security Act to enable Medicare to cover needed hearing assessment, treatment, devices and related services.

Several pieces of legislation addressing Medicare coverage of hearing health care services are being considered by Congressional committees. HLAA is carefully assessing these bills, watching their progress, and providing input to key legislators on points of concern to its members. This position statement may be updated as the debate proceeds.

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