



## THE HEARING AIDS NOTICE 1953

PURSUANT to regulation 4 of the Social Security (Hospital Benefits for Outpatients) Regulations 1947, the Minister of Health hereby gives the following notice.

### NOTICE

1. This notice may be cited as the Hearing Aids Notice 1953.
2. The supply of individual valve-type hearing aids to outpatients of public hospitals is hereby approved, subject to the following conditions:
  - (a) The supply of the aid is recommended by an otologist employed or engaged by the Hospital Board ; and
  - (b) The patient possesses a hearing loss of at least 35 decibels in the better ear, over the significant frequencies of speech, or such other loss of a lesser degree as in the opinion of the otologist renders the use of an aid necessary ; and
  - (c) The patient's hearing loss is such that in the opinion of the otologist it is capable of correction or marked improvement by the use of the type of hearing aid supplied or approved for the purpose of the benefits ; and
  - (d) The patient has not previously obtained a benefit in respect of an individual valve-type hearing aid under the above-mentioned regulations during the five years immediately preceding the date of his application, and is not already in possession of such a hearing aid obtained under the provisions of the abovementioned regulations that is, in the opinion of an otologist employed or engaged by the Board, still satisfactory and serviceable or capable of satisfactory repair.
3. Where an outpatient of a public hospital is entitled to a hearing aid under clause 2 of this notice but does not wish to avail himself of the hearing aid issued free of charge by the Board, the Board may pay on behalf of the patient a sum not exceeding £13 towards the purchase of any approved hearing aid.
4. Where an outpatient of a public hospital has received a benefit in respect of a hearing aid during the immediately preceding period of five years, the Hospital Board may pay on behalf of the patient towards the cost of replacing the hearing aid a sum that equals half the cost of the replacement hearing aid but does not in any case exceed £6 10s. No benefit may be granted under this clause unless—
  - (a) In the opinion of an otologist employed or engaged by the Board the replacement hearing aid will benefit the hearing of the patient to an extent that the aid already issued does not ; and
  - (b) The patient is otherwise eligible to receive a hearing aid.

5. Where an outpatient of a public hospital has not received a benefit in respect of a hearing aid during the immediately preceding period of five years but is in possession of an individual valve-type hearing aid obtained under the provisions of the abovementioned regulations that is, in the opinion of an otologist employed or engaged by a Hospital Board, still satisfactory and serviceable or capable of satisfactory repair, the Hospital Board may pay on behalf of the patient towards the cost of replacing the hearing aid a sum that equals half the cost of the replacement hearing aid but does not in any case exceed £6 10s. No benefit may be granted under this clause unless the patient is otherwise eligible to receive a hearing aid.

6. The types of hearing aids specified in the First Schedule to this notice are hereby approved for the purposes of this notice :

Provided that this clause shall not apply—

- (a) To any existing model of any such hearing aid unless that model was approved, under the Hearing Aids Notice 1951, before the commencement of this notice, or is approved in writing for the purposes of this notice by the Director-General of Health:
- (b) To any new model of any such hearing aid issued after the commencement of this notice, unless that new model is approved in writing for the purposes of this notice by the Director-General of Health.

7. (1) The notices specified in the Second Schedule to this notice are hereby revoked.

(2) Without limiting the provisions of the Acts Interpretation Act 1924, it is hereby declared that the revocation of any provision by this notice shall not affect any document made or any thing whatsoever done under the provision so revoked or under any corresponding former provision, and every such document or thing, so far as it is subsisting or in force at the time of the revocation and could have been made or done under this notice, shall continue and have effect as if it had been made or done under the corresponding provision of this notice and as if that provision had been in force when the document was made or the thing was done.

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## SCHEDULES

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### FIRST SCHEDULE

#### TYPES OF APPROVED INDIVIDUAL VALVE-TYPE HEARING AIDS

Acousticon hearing aids.  
Amplivox hearing aids.  
Antone hearing aids.  
Belclere hearing aids.  
Bonochord hearing aids.  
British Hearing Aids (N.Z.), Ltd. (Clarion Hearing Aids, Distributors), hearing aids.  
Fortiphone hearing aids.  
Lectron hearing aids.  
Maico Co. (N.Z.), Ltd., hearing aids.  
Multitone hearing aids.  
Ossicaide hearing aids.  
Phillips hearing aids.  
Sonotone hearing aids.  
Standard hearing aids.  
Supertone hearing aids.  
Western Electric hearing aids.

SECOND SCHEDULE  
NOTICES REVOKED

Title	Reference
The Hospital Outpatients Hearing Aids Notice 1951	<i>Gazette</i> , 13 September 1951, Vol. III, p. 1375.
The Hospital Outpatients Hearing Aids Notice 1951, Amendment No. 1	<i>Gazette</i> , 28 February 1952, Vol. I, p. 317.
The Hospital Outpatients Hearing Aids Notice 1951, Amendment No. 1	Statutory Regulations 1953, Serial number 1953/77, p. 310.

Dated at Wellington, this 16th day of October 1953.

JACK T. WATTS,  
for the Minister of Health.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

*[This note is not part of the notice, but is intended to indicate its general effect.]*

This notice is a consolidation, with amendments, of the Hospital Outpatients Hearing Aids Notice 1951, specifying the conditions under which hearing aids may be supplied by Hospital Boards to persons entitled to them, under the Social Security (Hospital Benefits for Outpatients) Regulations 1947, and the types of hearing aids approved for that purpose.

The effect of the amendments made in this notice is that existing approvals of models of the types of hearing aids mentioned in the First Schedule remain in force, but no existing model of any type of hearing aid that is not already approved, and no future model, may be supplied unless it is first approved in writing under this notice by the Director-General of Health.

Issued under the authority of the Regulations Act 1936.

Date of notification in *Gazette*: 22 October 1953.

These regulations are administered in the Department of Health.