

1955/173



## THE HEARING AIDS NOTICE 1955

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 1955.
2. In this notice, unless the context otherwise requires,—

“Approved speaking tube” means a speaking tube of a type approved in writing for the purposes of this notice by the Director-General of Health:

“Hearing aid” means an approved speaking tube, or an electrical hearing aid approved under clause 7 of this notice.
3. The supply of 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 a 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 a hearing aid obtained under the provisions of the above-mentioned regulations that is, in the opinion of an otologist employed or engaged by the Board, still satisfactory and serviceable or capable of satisfactory repair; and
  - (e) In the case of an approved speaking tube, such a tube is, in the opinion of the otologist, likely to be a more satisfactory hearing aid for the patient than an electrical hearing aid.

4. Where an outpatient of a public hospital is entitled to a hearing aid under clause 3 of this notice but does not wish to avail himself of the hearing aid issued free of charge by the Hospital Board, the Board may pay on behalf of the patient a sum not exceeding £13 towards the purchase of an approved electrical hearing aid or a sum not exceeding £2 towards the purchase of an approved speaking tube.

5. 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. in the case of an approved electrical hearing aid or £1 in the case of an approved speaking tube. 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.

6. 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 a hearing aid obtained under the provisions of the above-mentioned 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. in the case of an approved electrical hearing aid or £1 in the case of an approved speaking tube. No benefit may be granted under this clause unless the patient is otherwise eligible to receive a hearing aid.

7. The types of electrical 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 1953,\* 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.

8. (1) The Hearing Aids Notice 1953\* is hereby revoked.

(2) Without limiting the provisions of the Acts Interpretation Act 1924, it is hereby declared that the revocation of the said notice shall not affect any document made or any thing whatsoever done thereunder or under any corresponding former notice, 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.

## SCHEDULE

## TYPES OF APPROVED ELECTRICAL 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.  
Elac hearing aids.  
Fortiphone hearing aids.  
Lectron hearing aids.  
Maico hearing aids.  
Maico Co. (N.Z.) Ltd. hearing aids.  
Multitone hearing aids.  
Ossicaide hearing aids.  
Phillips hearing aids.  
Rein's hearing aids.  
Sonotone hearing aids.  
Standard hearing aids.  
Supertone hearing aids.  
Western Electric hearing aids.

Dated at Wellington this 26th day of September 1955.

J. R. HANAN,  
Minister of Health.

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EXPLANATORY NOTE

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

The Hearing Aids Notice 1953 allowed the supply to outpatients of approved hearing aids free of charge, or the payment of subsidies towards their purchase, under certain conditions; but it applied only to electrical hearing aids. This notice replaces the Hearing Aids Notice 1953, and extends its provisions to include approved speaking tubes. Speaking tubes will be supplied free of charge where an otologist employed or engaged by a Hospital Board considers that the patient will receive more satisfactory service from a speaking tube than from an electrical aid. The maximum subsidy that may be paid on the purchase of a speaking tube that is not supplied free of charge is £2.

This notice also extends the list of approved electrical hearing aids to include Elac, Maico, and Rein's hearing aids.

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Issued under the authority of the Regulations Act 1936.

Date of notification in *Gazette*: 6 October 1955.

These regulations are administered in the Department of Health.