



Removal of Impacted Cerumen

Description of Procedure or Service

The removal of impacted cerumen, also known as ear wax, is the extraction of hardened or accumulated cerumen from the external auditory canal by mechanical methods (irrigation or debridement).

Reimbursement Policy Guidelines

Healthfirst will not reimburse for this procedure separately.

This decision relates solely to reimbursement for this procedure and does not pertain to individual member coverage.

Justification

The routine removal of cerumen (by use of softening drops, cotton swabs, or cerumen spoons) is considered part of the procedure with which it is billed (i.e., audiological function testing) and is therefore considered inclusive of the office visit. As such, it is not reimbursed separately on the same day as an Evaluation and Management (E&M) service.

Applicable Service Codes

This policy is applicable to the following codes: 69209, 69210, and G0268

SERVICE CODE	DESCRIPTION
69209	Removal of Impacted Cerumen Using Irrigation/Lavage, Unilateral
69210	Removal of Impacted Cerumen (Separate Procedure), One or Both Ears
G0268	Removal of Impacted Cerumen (One or Both Ears) by Physician on Same Date of Service as Audiological Function Testing