

APA-1

TRANSMITTAL SHEET FOR NOTICE OF INTENDED ACTION

Control: 560
Department or Agency: Alabama Medicaid Agency
Rule No.: 560-X-19-.01
Rule Title: Hearing Services - General
Intended Action: Amend

Would the absence of the proposed rule significantly harm or endanger the public health, welfare, or safety? No

Is there a reasonable relationship between the state's police power and the protection of the public health, safety, or welfare? Yes

Is there another, less restrictive method of regulation available that could adequately protect the public? No

Does the proposed rule have the effect of directly or indirectly increasing the costs of any goods or services involved? No

To what degree?: N/A

Is the increase in cost more harmful to the public than the harm that might result from the absence of the proposed rule? No

Are all facets of the rule-making process designed solely for the purpose of, and so they have, as their primary effect, the protection of the public? Yes

Does the proposed action relate to or affect in any manner any litigation which the agency is a party to concerning the subject matter of the proposed rule? No

Does the proposed rule have an economic impact? No

If the proposed rule has an economic impact, the proposed rule is required to be accompanied by a fiscal note prepared in accordance with subsection (f) of Section 41-22-23, Code of Alabama 1975.

Certification of Authorized Official

I certify that the attached proposed rule has been proposed in full compliance with the requirements of Chapter 22, Title 41, Code of Alabama 1975, and that it conforms to all applicable filing requirements of the Administrative Procedure Division of the Legislative Services Agency.

Signature of certifying officer

Timothy "Bo" A. Offord, Jr.
Timothy Offord

Date

Tuesday, May 19, 2026

REC'D & FILED
MAY 19, 2026

LEGISLATIVE SVC AGENCY

ALABAMA MEDICAID AGENCY

NOTICE OF INTENDED ACTION

AGENCY NAME: Alabama Medicaid Agency

RULE NO. & TITLE: 560-X-19-.01 Hearing Services - General

INTENDED ACTION: Amend

SUBSTANCE OF PROPOSED ACTION:

The above referenced rule is being amended to revise the timeframe of a hearing evaluation by a licensed physician from 60 days to six months. This updated timeframe is intended to provide a more efficient schedule for recipients' follow-up appointments.

TIME, PLACE AND MANNER OF PRESENTING VIEWS:

Written or oral comments may be submitted to the Alabama Medicaid Agency, 501 Dexter Avenue, Post Office Box 5624, Montgomery, Alabama 36103-5624. Agency business hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

FINAL DATE FOR COMMENT AND COMPLETION OF NOTICE:

Friday, July 3, 2026

CONTACT PERSON AT AGENCY:

Administrative Secretary
Alabama Medicaid Agency
501 Dexter Avenue
Post Office Box 5624
Montgomery, Alabama 36103-5624
Phone: (334) 353-3399

Timothy "Bo" A. Offord, Jr.

Timothy Offord

(Signature of officer authorized
to promulgate and adopt
rules or his or her deputy)

(1) Audiological function tests and hearing aids are limited to Medicaid eligible individuals who are eligible for treatment under the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) Program. Hearing aids are provided through hearing aid dealers who are contracted to participate in the Alabama Medicaid Hearing Aid Program.

An eligible individual with hearing problems may be referred to a private physician or to ~~Crippled Children's~~Children's Rehabilitation Service for medical evaluation. Audiological function tests must be referred by a physician before testing.

(2) Medical Examination:

(a) Approval for a hearing aid ~~will not be approved~~ for any Medicaid ~~eligible~~ recipient prior to is contingent upon the recipient undergoing a medical examination and obtaining a recommendation for a hearing evaluation by from a licensed physician, within sixty (60) days of the time of. The hearing evaluation recommendation must be within six (6) months of the hearing aid fitting. This is mandatory.

(b) The medical examination should, if possible, be given by a physician specializing in diseases of the ear. If a physician of this type is not available or accessible, referral may be made to ~~Crippled Children~~Children's Rehabilitation Service for otological evaluation, medical clearance and medical approval for the use of earmolds.

(c) Children under six (6) years of age shall be examined by an otologist or otolaryngologist before an aid is fitted.

(d) The examining physician referring the patient to a hearing aid dealer will be required to furnish the dealer with appropriate medical evaluation statements and recommendations, according to program requirements.

(3) Otologic Evaluations: Eligible recipients are authorized one otologic evaluation per calendar year, which shall include one of the following: ~~a.~~

(a) Basic comprehensive audiometry, ~~b.~~

(b) Evoked response audiometry, ~~c.~~

(c) Conditioning play audiometry. Prior Authorization is not required for additional evaluations within the current benefit period.

(4) Special Audiological Function Tests: Special audiological function tests are those services not included in a comprehensive evaluation. These services are reported separately using ~~discriptors~~descriptors from the audiological series of the CPT manual. Prior Authorization is not required.

Author: Valeria Hardy, Interim Associate Director, Medical Services

Statutory Authority: State Plan; 42 C.F.R. Title XIX, Social Security Act; 42 C.F.R. §441.56.

History: Rule effective October 1, 1982. Amended effective June 8, 1985. **Emergency rule** effective December 1, 1986. Amended effective March 12, 1987. **Emergency rule** effective October 1, 1990; March 18, 1991. Amended effective June 12, 1991. Amended: Published ; effective .