

# Modifications to the RAMQ Hearing Aid Program



At the end of October 2021, RAMQ issued two newsletters concerning changes to its hearing aid program.

## **#1 Administrative relief in connection with the medical certificate of an ear, nose, and throat specialist (ENT)**

A significant change to the RAMQ hearing aid program is that since November 1, 2021, a patient who wants a hearing aid paid for by RAMQ is no longer required to obtain a medical certificate signed by an ear, nose, and throat specialist (ENT). This is permissible on the condition that an audiologist certifies the hearing impairment of the insured person and that the other applicable requirements are met. This change removes a step in the procedure in order to simplify the process for accessing the hearing aid program.

## **#2 A new list of insured hearing aids and assistive listening devices (ALDs)**

On October 13th, 2021, the RAMQ board of directors adopted a new list of insured hearing aids, increasing the range of devices covered. This decision was then entered into force on November 1, 2021.

On this list of newly covered devices, you can find different models of custom hearing aids (full shell (ITE) and half shell (HS) hearing aids) and non-custom hearing aids (regular behind the ear (BTE) and receiver in the ear (RITE) hearing aids) that can fit situations of both mild and severe/profound degrees of hearing loss. The sizes of the batteries available range from 312 to 675. Some models have direct audio input capability, frequency compression, frequency transposition, and volume control. For a lot of these hearing aids, it is possible to have a remote control.

The list also contains a section where you can find hearing aids for the pediatric population and assistive listening devices (ALDs) that work on televisions and telephone or act as personal amplifiers or alerting systems.

*If you have any questions about these changes, do not hesitate to communicate with your audiologist or hearing aid provider.*

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