

Does your state have Blue Cross Blue Shield plans that recognize audiologists as providers and reimburses them directly yes or no?

STATE	YES	NO	EXPLANATION
1. AR	√		Arkansas audiologists are allowed by local BCBS to be providers. However, we are not allowed to be PPO or HMO providers for BCBS policies. Grover Hutson
2. AZ	√		I am in Arizona, and BC/BS pays audiologists directly for their services at our facility. Wende Yellin
3. CA	√	√	I'm not sure I understand the question. We do bill BC/BS and get reimbursed in California. For the HMO plans an authorization is usually required, but not always. In many cases the patient can come to us without an authorization. -Kimberly Skinner, Au.D.
4. CO	√		In the Beautiful Mountains of Colorado, Blue Cross/Blue Shield does recognize audiologists as providers by directly reimbursing us. Terry Cummings  I don't know the answer to this question. Hopefully someone else from Colorado will be able to respond (Sue Dreith, Jenny Weber or Terry Cummings). Julie  I really can't answer your question based on my experience because I work in a hospital setting and billing is done through the hospital. Unfortunately, I don't have the time in the next couple of days to seek out the answer as I'm going out of the country for the next week. Do you want me to try to track that information down when I get back? I'm writing from Colorado. Sue Dreith
5. CT	√		In Connecticut, Anthem Blue Cross/Blue Shield recognizes audiologists and pays them directly. Nancy C. McMahon, MA, CCC-A  I am a recognized provider for Blue Cross Blue Shield of CT. I have had a provider number since July 1996 when I opened my private practice. Patients have direct access and reimbursement is directly to me. Hope this helps. Cathee Alex
6. FL		√	In the state of Florida, at least in S. Florida, BCBS won't pay a small private practice audiologist unless they are associated with a group. Cindy Simon
7. GA		√	My understanding is that Blue Cross in Georgia does not recognize audiologists independently on their network. Our practices as well as others are still trying to figure out ways to approach this issue. Helena Solodar
8. ID	√		Blue Cross of Idaho just recently added an audiology network and as a private practice audiologist, I can finally bill under my own provider number. Blue Shield is separate here and they gave me a provider number 6 years ago when I

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			started my private practice. Cindy Olsen 208 658-0238
9. KY	√	√	Pam Ison: It depends on the plan. Not all Blue plans in KY have direct access for audiology but most of them do.  I have a private practice in KY and I bill BCBS and get reimbursed directly. <i>Angela M. Morris, Au.D., FAAA</i> SOUTHEAST KENTUCKY AUDIOLOGY SERVICES, INC.
10. MA	√		Massachusetts General Law mandates that Blue Cross Blue Shield members be able to access an audiologist or speech-language pathologist regardless of work setting (private practice vs. hospital based). Link below, I believe, is the law enacted to mandate this. It's been a while since I've looked it up: <a href="http://www.mass.gov/legis/laws/mgl/176b-4y.htm">http://www.mass.gov/legis/laws/mgl/176b-4y.htm</a> For further clarification, contact Dr. David Citron, <a href="mailto:dcitron@sshc.com">dcitron@sshc.com</a> , who was the audiologist/private practice owner responsible (almost single-handedly) for this law's enactment. He continues to be BC/BS's go-to audiologist in the state when they ask for clarification of services provided. Tell him I sent you. Brian Fligor
11. ME	√		In Maine, Anthem BCBS recognizes audiologists as independent providers and reimburses us directly. They have even been paying an office visit fee in addition to the traditional diagnostic codes of 92557, etc. Carolyn Gaiero AuD Belfast, ME
12. MI		√	BCBS of Michigan pays only as part of the hearing aid program. (They pay hearing aid dealers for this as well). It is a major problem! We are working on it. Any suggestions are appreciated. Can you give me some sort of report on what you find out on this? It would help us make a case. Noreen Gibbens
13. MN	√	√	We are providers for BCBS and we are paid for our services on a routine basis. Some plans require a referral and others allow direct access to our practice. We have participated with BCBS for 10 years. Julie Perreault, Au.D. East Central Audiology, Ltd. Minnesota
14. MO	√		Missouri accepts audiologists as providers. I personally am in private practice and am a provider with Alliance BC/BS. I am also a provider with the General Motors BC/BS plan. Under both plans - I have been reimbursed for diagnostic audiology and for hearing instruments. BC/BS has not for the most part been our problem. Our major problem is First Health. They are big in our area, covering employees of the State of Missouri. The plan reads that it covers diagnostic audiology and hearing instruments at 80% <u>if provider sees you</u> ...However, they will <u>only allow medical physicians to be providers</u> . I have fought this with both First Health and the State and made some headway (supposedly paid as provider although not officially listed as provider), but continue to have our

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			<p>issues. Are others states having a problem with First Health and do you have any suggestions?</p> <p>Steve Brown, AuD President-Elect Missouri Academy of Audiology Brown and Willen Audiology Center Cape Girardeau, MO</p> <p>I am a private practice Au.D. in Farmington, Missouri and I am a BC/BS provider receiving direct reimbursement. Karen Lamb, Au.D.</p> <p>Neil Disarno: Missouri BCBS does reimburse.</p>
15. MT	√		Audiologists in Montana are recognized by BCBS as providers. Doug Rehder
16. NC	√		<p>North Carolina does. In fact, we have an IPA where members offer BC/BS members to receive a hearing aid discount. Jill Howard Our new president is Del Hawk. You can reach him at <a href="mailto:dhawk@rextom.com">dhawk@rextom.com</a></p> <p>North Carolina BCBS recognizes audiologist and pays directly for hearing evaluations. Tami L. Ike High Point, NC</p>
17. ND		√	<u>Brian Qvammen: We are providers in ND but need a doctor's referral.</u>
18. NH	√		Laura Robertson: New Hampshire has ANTHEM, which is a version of BCBS, and they do reimburse me directly as a private practice audiologist. Before they became Anthem they reimbursed me directly too.
19. NJ	√		<p>Gran Brady, Au.D.: The blues recognize audiologists BUT they also have a deal with hearx that funnels their Medicare blue patients directly to them.</p> <p>Even though I am an employee of a pediatric rehab hospital in NJ, our organization was required to sign up audiologists as providers. However ultimately reimbursement goes into the hospital coffers and not to individual accounts. Swati Lotlikar-Kamath, M.S.CCC-A</p> <p>BC/BS reimburses audiologists directly in NJ; however, as an aside, BC/BS has varied HMO plans that they have negotiated with HEARx that only allow their patients to go to HEARx centers for evaluation. So, depending upon the plan a patient has, they may be told they can only go to HEARx. Donna M. Goione-Merchant, Au.D Doctor of Audiology</p>
20. NM	UNSURE		I think New Mexico does. I am quite sure about that. Ballachanda
21. NV	√	√	<p>I am listed as a provider for BCBS in the Las Vegas area. I must have a physician referral, but can bill and (hopefully) collect directly.</p> <p>Susan Lloyd</p>

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22. NY	√		<p>Dan Schneider, Buffalo NY: BCBS reimburses audiologists directly in Western NY state. I believe it's the same across the state but hopefully you'll get some other responses from NY.</p> <p>We get reimbursed from Bc/BS directly. Depending on the product (the HMO that the plan is linked to), however, some plans require referral and we are occasionally asked for "medical necessity" or prescription from an MD. It's variable from one HMO to the next, but we do get reimbursed directly. Lynn Spivak, NY</p> <p>In the private practice that I work for each audiologist has a provider number with BC/BS for billing purposes. This is reimbursement for whatever services the individual patient is provided in their specific policy. I know some are better than others. We each have a whole host of provider numbers for all of the different insurances. Kathy Wilson-Ward</p>
23. OH	√		<p>Blue Cross Blue Shield in Northeast Ohio recognizes audiologists as independent providers. Helene Levenfus</p> <p>We get reimbursed in Ohio from them. The big problem is that for the UAW contracts we get \$150.00 for a dispensing fee, no matter the technology and we are not allowed to balance bill for the rest. So, many audiologists are not taking this insurance for this reason. Deb Abel</p>
24. OK	√		<p>I am a private practice Audiologist in Oklahoma and I have the following insurance contracts that reimburse me for professional services and product (when available to their member):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> BCBS of Kansas</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> BCBS of Oklahoma</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> BlueLines HMO</li> </ul> <p>Hope this assists you--- Dr. Susan S. Boyle Clinical Audiologist</p>
25. OR	√		Oregon does. Jan Hankerson
26. PA	√		In the great state of Pennsylvania, audiologists get paid directly from Blue Cross/Blue Shield.
27. PR		√	<p>In Puerto Rico BC/BS does *not pay* to audiologist even with medical referral. Paola Poullet <a href="mailto:poulletp@coqui.net">poulletp@coqui.net</a></p>
28. SC	√	√	<p>ROBERT POLAND: South Carolina: YES!</p> <p>Lynn Lehman: In South Carolina, BCBS for state and federal employees will</p>

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			<p>pay us directly. With independent BCBS policies, it depends on the policy--in most cases, we do have to get prior authorization from the primary care physician.</p> <p>In South Carolina the normal health plan does not recognize audiologists. The state BC/BS program does recognize audiologists and reimburse directly.</p> <p>Alan Smith, Au.D.</p>
29. TX	√		<p>In Texas, BC/BS does recognize audiologists as individual providers and pays audiologists directly when billing is under the audiologist's name or provider number. This primarily applies to audiologists in private practice. In some instances BC/BS will pay for hearing aids in addition to audiological examinations. I don't know about audiologists who are employed by physicians or other billing entities. Some plans do require a referral from the patient's PCP, while for other plans patients can self refer. BC/BS supplemental plans for Medicare always require a physician's referral, but billing and payment should be under the audiologist's name. I don't know if physicians are able to bill BC/BS for services that they do not directly provide in their offices, but I think that this is not allowed by most BC/BS plans.</p> <p>Todd H. Porter, AuD VP Governmental Affairs Texas Academy of Audiology 972-438-9360</p>
30. VT	√		<p>Vermont BC/BS does recognize Audiologists as providers and does reimburse us directly. Hope this helps. Any other questions please let me know.</p> <p>Bob Hartenstein <a href="mailto:AudioVT@aol.com">AudioVT@aol.com</a></p>
31. WA	√		<p>Our state's Blue Cross/Shield plans do reimburse audiologists directly, and as long as I have been in private practice (1991) have done so.</p> <p>Shann Rand, AuD Washington State Rep</p>
32. WI		√	<p>Blue Cross/ Blue Shield of Wisconsin reimburses audiologists for diagnostics and hearing aids. Physician referral required.</p>