

**Restriction of Pediatric Hearing Aid Dispensing Services to Audiologists  
(Excluding Commercial Hearing Aid Dealers): 03/21/2007**

Colorado is in the middle of its efforts to get licensure--our bill was heard last week and is continuing next week. Colorado wants to require children's hearing aids dispensing/services be provided by audiologists. Have any other states restricted hearing aid dealers from practicing on the basis of age of the client?

<b>STATE:</b>	<b>RESPONSE:</b>
<b>California</b>	<p>1. In CA if child is under 16 s/he must be seen by an audiologist. I would have to re-read the law as to whether the dealer can do any part of the fitting. ENT clearance is required.</p> <p>Alison M. Grimes, Au.D.</p> <p>2. To elaborate on Alison's comments - Here is how it is written in the hearing aid dispensing laws in California:</p> <p>No hearing aid shall be sold by an individual licensed under this chapter, to a person 16 years of age or younger, unless within the preceding six months a recommendation for a hearing aid has been made by both a board-certified, or a board-eligible physician specializing in otolaryngology, and by an audiologist certified by the American Speech and Hearing Association. A replacement of an identical hearing aid within one year shall be an exception to this requirement.</p> <p>Rose A. Bongiovanni, AuD</p> <p>3. I am happy to say, the ASHA requirement is no longer in effect. I'm concerned if this is still on the HADB website, as I had contacted them a few months ago to remind them that it needed to be removed. So I'm hoping you took this language from an older written document and not from their website!</p> <p>Alison M. Grimes, AuD</p>
<b>Florida</b>	<p>Off the top of my head, in Florida, the child must be cleared by the MD and the audiologist must do the testing and the fitting. The HIS deal with adults.</p> <p>Cindy Simon, Au.D.</p>
<b>Massachusetts</b>	<p>Excerpt from the Mass General Laws: Chapter 93: Section 74. Sales and delivery receipts; copies of medical clearance and hearing evaluation; customer records</p> <p>Section 74. Every person who sells a hearing aid shall accompany such sale with a receipt that shall include: .... It is also required that a person under the age of eighteen years obtain an evaluation by an audiologist in addition to</p>

	<p>the medical evaluation before a hearing aid can be sold to such person.”</p> <p>The law does not spell out what this eval is. Medicaid patients must get a hearing aid recommendation, inc make and model, from an audiologist. Because of low reimbursement rates, most dealers will send the child back to the audiologist for management.</p> <p>Mary Ellen Curran</p>
<b>Minnesota</b>	<p>In Minnesota, any child 18 and under must be first evaluated by an Audiologist. However, a hearing instrument dispenser who is not an Audiologist may dispense the hearing aids once that evaluation is accomplished.</p> <p>Samira Anderson, Au.D.</p>
<b>New Jersey</b>	<p>We have a different dilemma in New Jersey. It seems that the state has put most of the fee for service Medicaid children &amp; adults into various HMO plans. These plans claim to pay for hearing aids but they are really just sham. Kids don't get hearing aids because nobody wants to deal with the HMO plans that promise to pay and then refuse to. The result is a lot of cases are being left out. The state and the HMO plan response? There must not be a demand because nobody is using the services! Shameful.</p> <p>Gran Brady, Au.D.</p>
<b>Ohio</b>	<p>In Ohio, audiologists recently fought and one the battle that CHAD's (commercial hearing aid dealers) are not permitted to evaluate individuals under the age of 18. We did so by requiring that those under 18 must have tympanometry, ARTs and OAEs included in the test battery. As these procedures are out of the scope of practice of CHAD's they are unable to perform a complete evaluation for children. All children must have medical clearance prior to HA fitting. Both audiologists and CHAD's are able to fit the hearing instruments.</p> <p>Erin L. Miller, Au.D.</p>
<b>Texas</b>	<p>Regrettably, in Texas, all fittings on a child under the age of 18 must be cleared by an Otolologist.</p> <p>Todd H. Porter, AuD.</p>
<b>Wisconsin</b>	<p>In Wisconsin, "a hearing aid shall not be fitted or sold (by a hearing instrument specialist) to a child 17 years of younger unless within 90 days prior to the fitting the person to be fitted has been examined by a physician to determine whether or not her or she has any physical deficiencies that would profit the effective use of a hearing aid."</p> <p>Edward W. Korabic, Ph.D., CCC-A</p>