

# 2026 Hearing Benefit – With Start Hearing

Your Independent Health Medicare Advantage hearing aid benefit\* provides you with high quality hearing aids and local professional care at a fraction of the cost. Now, with a \$250 per ear hearing aid benefit allowance, it's even more affordable to get the support you need. Many health plans – including original Medicare – don't offer a hearing aid benefit, leaving you to pay up to \$3,000 or more per hearing aid on the retail market.

## Your Hearing Benefit Includes:

- New for 2026, members will receive a \$250 annual allowance per ear toward their hearing aid copayment.
- Hearing Aid Evaluation Exam – \$45 copayment (performed by a network provider).
- Hearing aids purchased through Start Hearing.
- Rechargeable & Non-Rechargeable models available.\*\*
- Three follow-up visits at no cost with an in-network provider for fitting and adjustment of hearing aids.
- A worry-free purchase with a 60-day trial and up to a 3-year warranty.\*\*\*

HEARING AID OPTIONS	RETAIL COST	MEMBER COPAYMENT (includes the annual allowance per ear)
Starkey Economy	\$1,673 (per aid)	\$249 copayment (per aid)
Starkey Low	\$2,338 (per aid)	\$449 copayment (per aid)
Starkey Select	\$2,738 (per aid)	\$749 copayment (per aid)
Starkey Advanced	\$3,238 (per aid)	\$1,249 copayment (per aid)
Starkey Premium	\$3,498 (per aid)	\$1,699 copayment (per aid)

*Starkey Hearing Technologies is the only major hearing aid manufacturer that is American owned and operated.*

## How It Works – To Get Hearing Aids:

1. You must use a provider in the Start Hearing network.
2. To locate a participating Start Hearing audiologist near you, call Start Hearing at **1-888-821-4126**, or visit <https://www.startheating.com/independenthealthma>
3. If hearing loss is discovered, your audiologist will help you choose the right hearing aids and order them through Start Hearing.
4. When the hearing aids arrive, you'll return to have them fitted and programmed by your audiologist.



\*Our hearing aid coverage includes a \$45 copayment collected at the time of hearing aid evaluation exam. Benefit is limited to Starkey Hearing Aids through Start Hearing, which come in various styles and colors. You must see a Start Hearing provider to use this benefit. Routine hearing exam/fitting and hearing aid copayments are not subject to the out-of-pocket maximum.

\*\*Non-Rechargeable models include 40 batteries per hearing aid. \*\*\*Returns within the trial period may be subject to a restocking fee of \$125. Three year warranty includes a one-time loss and damage coverage, subject to a deductible of \$250 per ear.

Independent Health is a Medicare Advantage organization with a Medicare contract offering HMO, HMO-SNP, HMO-POS and PPO plans. Enrollment in Independent Health depends on contract renewal. ATTENTION: If you do not speak English, language assistance services, free of charge, are available to you. Call 1-800-665-1502 (TTY: 711). Independent Health complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex. ATENCIÓN: Si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al 1-800-665-1502 (TTY: 711). 注意：如果您使用繁體中文，您可以免費獲得語言援助服務。請致電 1-800-665-1502 (TTY: 711).

Y0042\_C00521\_M Accepted 09292025