

hearing *services* plan

HEAR THE DIFFERENCE

what is companion life's hearing services plan?

It's a hearing care program combining unlimited choice with quality and value. And it is provided **free of charge** to all employees enrolled in any Companion Life dental plan. The Hearing Services Plan (HSP) may be extended to any family member!

Hearing allows us to experience our world. Music, radio, television, movies and theater are less accessible and enjoyable without it. And the loss of sounds like sirens and alarms can actually endanger our lives.

why have a hearing services plan?

Ten percent of the U.S. population have some form of hearing impairment. And hearing loss is the number three chronic health problem in the country. It is usually treatable, but fewer than 25% of people who can benefit are treated, often because of concerns about cost, difficulty in finding a hearing health specialist or confusion about the wide range of options in hearing aid technology.

With the Companion Life Hearing Services Plan, you can get assistance, protection and treatment for your hearing. Brought to you by **Companion Life** and **EPIC Hearing Health Care**, this plan gives you easy access to a national network of thousands of hearing health professionals — primarily physicians and audiologists — who can help you achieve your maximum hearing potential throughout your life.

The plan is a negotiated benefit. You pay nothing to join and get reduced rates for most fees and costs associated with your hearing healthcare under the plan.

what does the plan do for you?

The Companion Life Hearing Services Plan identifies and screens qualified experts — physicians and audiologists in your neighborhood. We also research and evaluate hearing aid technology to assure that the latest and most effective options



are available to you. We negotiate the best prices for all treatments, including hearing aids. Prices you get from EPIC may be as much as 50% below manufacturers' suggested retail price and up to 35% lower than most discount offers. And we also coordinate the coverage with your existing healthcare plans.

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how does someone know when to call?

Hearing loss usually occurs gradually, without pain, discomfort or deformity, but indicators like these should prompt an evaluation:

Difficulty understanding voices and words (especially those of women and children)

Occasional ringing in one or both ears

Itching in the ear canals

Difficulty understanding in noisy situations

Turning the TV volume up to understand the dialogue

In addition, more serious symptoms merit immediate attention of a physician:

Sudden hearing loss

Spinning or dizziness with vomiting

Persistent ringing in one ear

Blood or fluid draining from one or both ears

Persistent pain in one or both ears

getting started is easy!

To activate your **Companion Life Hearing Services Plan** benefits, call EPIC Hearing Health Care at 1-866-956-5400.

EPIC will send you a card with all the information you need to access your benefits, including

referrals to providers near you and activation forms to access them. You get a booklet outlining all the plan benefits, including detailed pricing. And you get a personal EPIC phone contact who can answer any questions you may have.

Then you will follow through with an appointment, examination and treatment. All payments should be made to EPIC HSP. No other billing or payments should occur. And you can contact EPIC at any time for assistance, advice and information.

summary of benefits and savings

The Companion Life Hearing Services Plan benefits and savings are:

Hearing tests

Hearing aids

Hearing aid batteries

Ear protection

Swim plugs

Musician earplugs

Hearing aid cleaning supplies and accessories

Assistive listening devices

TV ears (amplifies and clarifies television)

Alerting and signaling devices

To receive more information about the Companion Life Hearing Services Plan, visit www.epichearing.com, e-mail epic-admin@epichearing.com or call Customer Service at 1-866-956-5400.

about the epic organization

EPIC (Ear Professionals International Corporation) is the nation's largest coalition of hearing healthcare physicians and audiologists. EPIC physicians pioneered and developed many of the current treatments and are recognized nationally as leaders in professional education, hearing diagnostics and interventions.

