

SPECIALTY CODING
6.2. Audiology

1821 **6.2. Audiology**

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1823 **6.2.1. Evaluation & Management (E&M) Rules**

1824 E&M codes are not appropriate for routine audiology encounters for procedures. The medical
1825 E&M components of an outpatient office visit are already included in the special procedures
1826 codes listed in the Special Otorhinolaryngologic Services subsection.

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1828 Encounters with patients for whom no procedure is done are reported with an E&M code
1829 (99201–99205 or 99211–99215) based on the chief complaint, history, exam, and decision
1830 making documented in the medical record.

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1832 **6.2.2. Diagnosis Coding Rules**

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DoD Rule

Deployment-related encounters will code one of the following: V70.5_4 for pre-deployment, V70.5_5 during deployment, or V70.5_6 for post-deployment related conditions. See section 2.2.8.2.

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1840 **6.2.2.1. Extender Codes**

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1842 See Appendix D for a complete list of all extender codes.

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1844 **V72.1 Examination of Ears and Hearing**

1845 • V72.11* 0 Encounter for Hearing Examination Following Failed Hearing
1846 Screening.

1847 • V72.11* 1 Encounter for Hearing Examination Following Failed Hearing
1848 Screening, Otoscopic Exam Done

1849 • V72.11* 2 Encounter for Hearing Examination Following Failed Hearing
1850 Screening, Otoscopic Exam Not Performed

1851 • V72.19* 0 Other Examination of Ears and Hearing

1852 • V72.19* 1 Other Examination of Ears and Hearing, Otoscopic Exam Done

1853 • V72.19* 2 Other Examination of Ears and Hearing, Otoscopic Exam Not
1854 Performed

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1856 **6.2.2.2. Hearing Conservation Program (HCP)**

1857 HCP guidelines in DA Pam 40–501 or other Service guidelines require all military and civilian
1858 personnel who routinely work in noise-hazardous areas to have reference (base line), annual, and
1859 terminal audiograms.

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DoD Rule
Hearing Conservation Program services are coded in a Special Program service in an F MEPRS clinic (FBN*).

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Hearing tests performed in other than an audiology clinic or for HCP are reported in the clinic where the test or procedure is performed. These examination encounters are coded according to the table below. The table includes only codes for HCP encounters leading to referral to an audiology clinic.

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DoD Rule
Official ICD-9-CM coding guidelines state that both V70 and V72 codes are only listed first. Code V72 excludes V70.5. However, for the DoD to identify the specific type of HCP exam, particularly those with an identified significant threshold shift (STS), or permanent threshold shift (PTS), both codes are reported in the order shown for HCP exams.

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HEARING CONSERVATION PROGRAM (HCP) TABLE

Encounter Type	ICD-9-CM Diagnosis Codes	E&M Codes	CPT Procedure Codes
Accession exam in basic training with no abnormalities	V70.5_8 and V72.1*	N/A	92552 (Individual), 92559**(Group)
Accession exam in basic training with abnormalities	V70.5_8 and V72.1*, plus 794.15***	N/A	92552 (Individual), 92559**(Group)
Exam at start of routine employment involving hazardous noise with no abnormalities	V70.5_3 and V72.1*	N/A	92552 (Individual), 92559**(Group)
Exam at start of routine employment involving hazardous noise with abnormalities	V70.5_3 and V72.1*, plus 794.15***	N/A	92552 (Individual), 92559**(Group)
Annual exam with no identified STS	V70.5_3 and V72.1*	N/A	92552 (Individual), 92559**(Group)

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Annual exam with an initial STS identification	V70.5_3 and V72.1* plus 794.15***	N/A	92552 (Individual), 92559**(Group)
Annual exam with a previously confirmed PTS	V70.5_3 and 388.1X* or 389.XX*	N/A	92552 (Individual), 92559**(Group)
Follow-up 1 or 2 for STS identified during current annual or follow-up 1 exam	794.15***	N/A	92552 (Individual), 92559**(Group)
Termination exam at end of employment or separation from active duty	V70.5_9 and V72.1*	N/A	92552 (Individual), 92559**(Group)

- 1885
- 1886 * Indicates there are various 4th and 5th digits or extender codes that may be assigned to indicate a specific condition
- 1887 or encounter
- 1888 ** For patients tested using Defense Occupational and Environmental Health Readiness System-Hearing
- 1889 Conservation (DOEHRS-HC).
- 1890 *** Code to be used by non-professionals (e.g., technicians, nurses, volunteers). Only physicians or audiologists
- 1891 may diagnose noise-induced hearing loss.
- 1892

NOTE: 99078 may be used as an additional code if physician education services are provided in a group setting.

6.2.2.3. Hearing Loss Caused by Injury

Initial encounters for hearing loss acquired from performance of duties, but not associated with physical trauma to the head will be identified with the appropriate *E* code as a secondary diagnosis. *E* codes are only used for the first encounter for the condition that was caused by the situation described by the *E* code. There is an injury or accident field in the ADM that should be answered *yes* each time the patient is seen for a condition caused by an accident or injury.

- 1903 E923.8 Other Explosive Material—explosions not a result of war operations
- 1904 E928.1 Exposure to Noise
- 1905 E993 Injury Caused by War Operations by Other Explosion—including
- 1906 accidental explosion of own weapon
- 1907 E995 Injury Caused by War Operations by Other and Unspecified Forms
- 1908 of Conventional Warfare—for hearing losses caused by exposure to
- 1909 other noises during war operations
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6.2.2.4. Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI)

EHDI will not be coded on the SIDR. EHDI screening exams and interventions are coded according to the table below. The table includes only codes for EHDI encounters.

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NEWBORN EARLY HEARING DETECTION AND INTERVENTION

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Encounter Type	ICD-9-CM Diagnosis Codes	CPT E&M Codes	CPT Procedure Codes
Newborn hearing screening with no abnormalities performed in audiology clinic***	V72.1**	If applicable, 99xxx	92586 or 92587
Newborn hearing screening with abnormalities performed in audiology clinic***	V72.1** and 794.15* or 389.XX**	N/A	92586 or 92587
Follow-up with no abnormalities	794.15	N/A	92585 and 92588
Follow-up with abnormalities	389.XX*	N/A	92585 and 92588
Intervention 1	389.XX*	N/A	92590, 92591, or 92700
Intervention 2	389.XX*	N/A	92590, 92591, or 99002
1 st follow-up to intervention	389.XX*	N/A	92590, 92591, 92594 or 92595

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- * Code to be used by non-professionals (e.g., technicians, nurses, volunteers).
- ** Indicates there are various 4th and 5th digits that may be assigned to indicate a specific condition or encounter
- *** Initial screening exam for patients not tested in the hospital prior to discharge from birth episode.

6.2.3. Procedural Coding Rules

6.2.3.1. CPT procedure Codes for Audiology

These services are in the Special Otorhinolaryngologic Services subsection of the Medicine section (92502–92700). Codes in the 92500 series do not require the supervision of a physician. Tests in this series can be performed by a qualified audiologist, but diagnostic procedures must be ordered by a physician.

6.2.3.2. Cerumen Removal

Removal of cerumen is considered integral to audiology services. Instillation of drops, minor scraping, or simple irrigation is bundled into the evaluation portion of audiology service. If a physician removes impacted cerumen before audiology testing, the physician should use code G0268. In all other circumstances, use 69210 for removal of impacted cerumen. Removal of cerumen to see the tympanic membrane is included in the E&M component. The physician or audiologist may report separate E&M service with modifier -25.

6.2.3.3. Tinnitus

Audiologists are qualified to evaluate, diagnose, develop management strategies, and provide treatment and rehabilitation for tinnitus patients. Diagnostic audiologic testing for tinnitus is reported with CPT code 92625.

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1948 **6.2.3.4. Hearing Equipment Services**
1949 Services related to fitting, providing or repairing hearing supplies and equipment, excluding
1950 implantable bone conduction devices, are reported with HCPCS Level II codes V5008–V5299.
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6.2.4. Other Audiology Guidance

6.2.4.1. Documentation of Hearing Conservation

1955 The results of administering all aspects of monitoring audiometry with the DOEHRS HC
1956 equipment is documented by completion of the following:
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1958	DD Form 2215	Reference Audiogram
1959	DD Form 2216	Hearing Conservation Data

6.2.4.2. Dispositions or Referrals

1962 DOEHRS HC software will automatically determine if an Occupational Safety and Health
1963 Administration (OSHA)-reportable hearing loss (RHL) is present and will provide disposition
1964 instructions.
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6.2.5. Modifiers

1967	TC	Technical Component is used by technicians who perform tests in a different 1968 clinic than the one used by the audiologist who interprets the test and 1969 renders a report.
1970	26	Professional Component is used by the audiologist who only interprets tests 1971 performed elsewhere and provides a report.
1972	52	Reduced Service is used when audiologic function tests (except 92559) are 1973 <i>performed on one ear only.</i> 1974