

# ENHANCED FOR 2023 \$1,000 HEARING AID ALLOWANCE—PER EAR



## Enhance your total health with hearing aids from Kaiser Permanente

Kaiser Permanente Medicare Advantage (HMO) health plans include a \$1,000 hearing aid allowance<sup>1</sup> per ear, every 36 months, as well as coverage for hearing exams, through Kaiser Permanente audiology centers.

When you trust your hearing care to Kaiser Permanente, you'll have the confidence of knowing that your entire care team is working together for a complete health care experience. Your audiologist is connected to your primary care doctor and specialists through your electronic health record, so whether you just need a routine hearing evaluation or have a hearing-related concern, your audiologist will have a full picture of your overall health and medical history.



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<sup>1</sup>Hearing aid allowance can only be used for hearing aids purchased at Kaiser Permanente audiology centers.

# Added value with Kaiser Permanente audiology

When you purchase hearing aids from Kaiser Permanente audiology, you'll receive the added value of follow-up care, a warranty for repairs, and a low replacement fee for lost hearing aids. You'll also receive care from highly skilled audiologists, all with doctorates in audiology.

Hearing aids purchased from Kaiser Permanente include:

- 3-year warranty for repair
- 3-year warranty for loss and damage with a one-time \$250 replacement fee per hearing aid
- Follow-up appointments for programming adjustments for 3 years

## Hearing aid types

Price range is \$850-\$2,400 each.

### IIC (Invisible in the canal)

IIC aids are the smallest hearing aids available. They are custom fitted to your ears based on a mold taken of your ear canal and the surrounding area. IIC aids are not visible once properly inserted into the ear. Because of the IIC aid's small size, you must have an ear canal large enough to accommodate the device parts. Also, there is only one microphone on the hearing aid, and it accommodates milder degrees of hearing loss.



### CIC (Completely in the canal)

CIC aids are one of the smallest hearing aids available. They are custom-made and barely visible once placed inside the ear canal. They also have one microphone because of their smaller size. CIC aids are recommended for people who have mild to moderately severe hearing loss and an ear canal large enough to accommodate the device.



### ITC (In the canal)

The ITC hearing aid is also made to fit one's unique ear shape and is larger than the CIC hearing aid, accommodating more controls on the device for the hearing aid user to manipulate. A volume control wheel and/or push button are features that are often added to this style of hearing aid to give the user more control over the way the hearing aid sounds. Because of its more substantial size, the battery is larger, lasting days longer than smaller hearing aids.



To find the nearest Kaiser Permanente audiology center, visit [kp.org/hearing](https://kp.org/hearing)

## ITE (In the ear)

ITE devices are larger aids that fit completely in the canal and can be used for a wider range of hearing loss. They're available with more features, such as a telephone switch, and can be connected to certain smartphones. All of the components fit inside the plastic case, which is made to fit the user's ear. ITE aids fill up either half of the ear bowl (half shell) or the whole ear bowl (full shell). ITE aids are suitable for people who have a mild to moderately severe hearing loss.



## RIC (Receiver in the canal)

RIC hearing aids have quickly become the most commonly fit hearing device. The two microphones and battery sit in the piece that is housed behind the ear, and sound travels down the wire to the speaker (receiver) that sits in the ear canal. Battery life for the RIC hearing aids is similar to that of ITC devices. This style of hearing aid often offers a more natural sound quality, has manual controls for the hearing aid user to adjust, and can be connected to certain smartphones. Almost all types and degrees of hearing loss can be accommodated by an RIC device with a custom or standard earmold piece.



## BTE (Behind the ear)

There are two components in the BTE: a hearing aid and an earmold. The hearing aid is connected to the earmold using a special tube. The earmold itself sits in the ear bowl, and the hearing aid sits over the ear. The device amplifies sound and delivers it to the ear through the earmold. BTE hearing aids are often recommended for children and people with certain middle ear conditions, or those with severe to profound hearing loss. However, with an "open fit" BTE option, the solid earmold is usually replaced with a small ear-tip to amplify high frequencies without plugging up the ear canal. BTE hearing aids can be connected to certain smartphones.



## Super Power BTE

This largest style of hearing aid is ideal for severe to profound hearing loss and is attached to an earmold. This type can be connected to certain smartphones and comes in a variety of styles. The battery life of the Super Power BTE is the longest of all hearing aid styles.



# Add Advantage Plus to your health plan for an additional \$1,000 hearing aid allowance



## More benefits, more value

Only \$20 a month gets you Advantage Plus coverage along with your Medicare health plan. You'll get comprehensive dental, hearing, and eyewear benefits, including an additional \$1,000 hearing aid allowance every 36 months. This can be combined with the \$1,000 hearing aid allowance included in your Kaiser Permanente Medicare Advantage plan for a total of \$2,000 per ear, every 36 months.

To learn more, visit [kp.org/advantageplus](https://kp.org/advantageplus) or call **1-877-263-3085 (TTY 711)**, 7 days a week, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Remember, to enroll in the Advantage Plus optional benefits package, you must first be enrolled in a Kaiser Permanente Medicare Advantage plan for individuals.

## WE'RE HERE TO HELP

If you have questions about Kaiser Permanente Medicare Advantage plans, call **1-866-973-4584 (TTY 711)**, 7 days a week, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., to speak to a Kaiser Permanente Medicare specialist. You can also visit [kp.org/medicare](https://kp.org/medicare).

Let Kaiser Permanente help you experience the sounds of your life—call **1-703-359-7878** to schedule a hearing aid consultation or visit [kp.org/hearingcare](https://kp.org/hearingcare) today.



Kaiser Permanente is an HMO and HMO-POS plan with a Medicare contract. Enrollment in Kaiser Permanente depends on contract renewal. You must reside in the Kaiser Permanente Medicare health plan service area in which you enroll.