

# 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 a 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](http://www.epichearing.com), e-mail [epic-admin@epichearing.com](mailto: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.

