

# NOISE INDUCED HEARING LOSS PROGRAM OF CARE (NIHL POC)

## Quick Reference

The NIHL POC outlines evidence-based services to reduce the impact of hearing loss by providing hearing aids to improve workers' quality of life.

### Worker Population

Workers with an approved claim for occupational NIHL who require a new hearing aid(s).

### Program Duration

The NIHL POC covers all services associated with the provision of hearing aids up to 1 year from the date of assessment.

### Program Components

#### Assessment

- ▶ **Audiometric testing** (if not already conducted in the last 6 months) – determines type, degree and configuration of hearing loss.
- ▶ **Evaluation of communication needs** – determines impact of hearing loss on communication and quality of life, as well as communication goals
- ▶ **Pre-fitting counselling and information**
- ▶ **Hearing aid selection** – to meet lifestyle, communication, health, social and vocational needs.
- ▶ **Prescription** – from audiologist or physician.

#### Dispensing and Fitting (1-2 weeks post-assessment)

- ▶ **Listening check and electroacoustic measures** – ensure hearing aids are working to specifications
- ▶ **Programming** – based on validated prescriptive fitting formula or procedure
- ▶ **Physical fit and sound quality** – adjustments to ensure comfort, ease of use and optimal sound quality
- ▶ **Hearing aid instructions for workers** – use, care and maintenance
- ▶ **Worker education** – counselling, education, information and social supports
- ▶ **Verification using real ear measurements**
- ▶ **Provision of batteries** for first year of use

#### Initial Follow-up (2-4 weeks post-fitting)

- ▶ **Re-programming, physical fit adjustments and cleaning, remakes and repairs of hearing aids** as required
- ▶ **Worker education and re-instruction**

#### Progress Follow-up (90 days post-fitting)

- ▶ **Validation:** completion of worker's self-report **NIHL POC Hearing Aid Outcome Questionnaire** and record **hearing aid use data**
- ▶ **Re-programming, physical fit adjustments and cleaning, remakes and repairs of hearing aids** as required
- ▶ **Worker education and re-instruction**
- ▶ Completion of **NIHL POC Hearing Aid Outcome Report**

**Fax or mail** the following to WSIB within 5 business days:

#### After Assessment:

- ▶ Audiogram (if not already conducted in the last 6 months)

#### After Dispensing and Fitting:

- ▶ Manufacturer's invoice

#### After Progress Follow Up:

- ▶ NIHL POC Hearing Aid Outcome Report
- ▶ NIHL POC Hearing Aid Outcome Questionnaire
- ▶ Manufacturer's invoice (if not previously submitted)

#### Keep on file (A copy may be requested periodically):

- ▶ Prescription
- ▶ Verification using real ear measurements

#### Additional Follow-up (up to 365 days post-assessment)

In some instances, additional follow-up visits after the progress follow-up may be required and should be based on the needs of the worker. See Reference Guide for details.

#### For questions, call the Health Care Professional Access Line:

1-800-569-7919 /416-344-4526, Monday to Friday