

Eligibility criteria for cochlear implant internal device

Southern Cross will only reimburse the cost of initial cochlear implant internal devices (receiver/stimulator) under a member's policy when criteria **1, 2, and 3** below are met for that member.

1. The member is an adult (from age 18).
2. The member has severe to profound sensorineural deafness in one ear and at least a moderate loss (> 50 db average 3-8 K Hz) in the other.

OR

The member is expected to have this level of hearing within 24 months on the basis of rapid deterioration as determined by two or more medical specialists under the Northern or Southern Cochlear Implant Programme.

3. For the ear to be implanted, optimally fit hearing aid with best aided speech and sentence discrimination testing using:
 - SPANZ words and sentence material.

OR

- CNC words and HINT sentences, or the equivalent of < 60% for sentences and 40% for words.

The cost of cochlear implant internal device (sound processor) will **not** be reimbursed in the following circumstance:

- Second ear implant for the same member (unilateral implant funding only).
- Replacement or revision cochlear implant (initial implant funding only).

Please also ensure you are familiar with all **policy exclusions**, including:

- Acute care
- Congenital conditions
- Cosmetic treatment/procedures
- Health screening
- Treatment of any condition not detrimental to health
- Unapproved healthcare services.

Refer to the relevant policy document for specific conditions and exceptions that apply to these exclusions.