

REQUEST FOR PRE-AUTHORIZATION

FOR BENEFITS OF A COCHLEAR NUCLEUS SOUND PROCESSOR

Date: _____

Insurance Co: _____

Address: _____

Re: Patient: _____

ID#: _____

Group: _____

Reference#: _____

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I am writing this letter to request prior authorization for a replacement external sound processor, **HCPCS L8619**.

Attached is a letter of medical necessity from my health care provider explaining the need for a replacement sound processor.

The cochlear implant is a prosthetic device designed to restore an individual's ability to regain auditory stimulation by replacing the permanently inoperative function of the internal organ known as the cochlea. Since the hair cells, which stimulate the auditory nerve, in the inner ear do not function (*functional defect*), the cochlear implant assumes the functions of these damaged hair cells (*permanently inoperative or malfunctioning body member*) in the inner ear. The cochlear implant then stimulates the auditory nerve fibers with electrical impulses, thus restoring auditory stimulation to the auditory nerve.

In addition to the surgically implanted internal receiver, the device requires an external sound processor (*L8619*) in order for me to hear. As such, the sound processor is not a hearing aid, but rather part of a biomedical device that is necessary for the ability to hear. The external sound processor (*L8619*) sends a signal to the internal implant allowing me to hear sound and without it the internal implant will not function.

At this time I am requesting prior authorization for a replacement sound processor. In addition, since Cochlear Americas is the sole authorized distributor of Cochlear's Nucleus products, parts, and accessories in North America I am requesting an in-network exception. Individuals who have had surgical procedures to implant a Cochlear branded implantable hearing solution need ongoing access to Cochlear's external parts and accessories to maintain their hearing for their lifetime. These parts and accessories are available only through Cochlear Americas and an individual cannot purchase a competitor's parts and accessories as they are not compatible with Cochlear's products (*and vice versa*).

Sincerely,