Cochlear Implant Program: Sound Processor Replacement Policy

**Cochlear Implant & Sound Processor:**

A cochlear implant is an electronic device that partially restores hearing in people who have severe hearing loss and who do not benefit from conventional hearing aids. An external sound processor behind the ear captures and processes sound signals, which are transmitted to a receiver implanted into the skull behind the ear. The receiver relays the information to the inner ear (cochlea). The external sound processor will need to be replaced, on average, every 5 to 7 years as the equipment degrades from continuous use and newer technology becomes available.

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**Sound Processor Replacement Policy:**

There are no up-front costs to Manitoba residents who proceed with cochlear implant surgery as Manitoba Health covers the surgical procedure, internal implant and the first external sound processor.

Adult patients are responsible for the upgrade costs of their sound processor when it requires replacement ($10,000).

Pediatric patients (under 18 years of age) are eligible for funding assistance through the Cochlear Implant Speech Processor Replacement Program, which provides up to 80% of the replacement costs associated with a device upgrade.

Interested applicants to the Cochlear Implant Speech Processor Replacement Program can download the application form here:

[Cochlear Implant Speech Processor Replacement Form](#)

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_I have read and understand the above information and accept responsibility for all costs associated with device replacement:_

Patient (or patient's guardian) ___________________________ Print Name Here

Home Address and Telephone Number ___________________________

Witnessed by: ___________________________

Physician or Audiologist ___________________________ Date