

# VRIS UPDATE

## Eligibility Based on Hearing Loss Effective 1-12-10 Number 247

### SUMMARY OF UPDATES

A new chapter titled “Eligibility Based on Hearing Loss” has being posted to VRIS and related revisions have been made to the “[Hearing Aid](#)” chapter and the [Communication Assessment Form](#).

Significant changes:

- Individuals with a hearing loss threshold of 40 dB or greater in the better ear will generally be considered as having an impairment that is a significant impediment to employment and most likely eligible for VR services.
- Individuals with a hearing loss threshold between 30 dB and 39 dB and a speech discrimination score of less than 70% may also be considered as having an impairment that is a significant impediment to employment and most likely eligible for VR services
- Individuals with a hearing loss threshold of 39 dB or less will not be found to have an impairment, or have an impairment that is not a significant impediment to employment and therefore not eligible for VR services.
- The method for calculating pure tone averages for each ear has changed. Pure tone averages are now calculated at the 2000, 3000, and 4000 Hz levels as well as to the 500, 1000, and 2000 Hz levels.
- The pure tone average for each ear is to be entered in QUEST on the impairment screen.
- A copy of the Communication Assessment Form which continues to be required for all individuals with a primary, secondary, or tertiary hearing impairment is to be fax to Pat Bracken (402.471.0788) upon completion.

### VRIS POSTING

The new chapter is posted to VRIS: Program Manual: Employment Program: Front End Process: Eligibility: [Eligibility Based on Hearing Loss](#).

The revised Hearing Aid chapter continues to be posted in two locations:

VRIS: Program Manual: Assessment Services & Supports: [Hearing Aids](#)

VRIS: Program Manual: Team and Community Supports: [Hearing Aids](#).

The revised Communication Assessment Form is posted to VRIS: Materials: Case Service Forms and Worksheets: [Communication Assessment Form](#).

### QUEST UPDATE

See picture of Impairment Screen in the Eligibility Based on Hearing Loss chapter for an illustration on how to document the calculated pure tone average for each ear.

### MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

Pat Bracken will monitor that the Communication Assessment Form is being completed and that consideration has being given to the need for Assistive Listening Devices.

**TEAM COMMUNICATION**

As the method of calculating the pure tone average to determine level of hearing loss has changed, it is recommended that team members practice the method in a team meeting on a few cases to ensure that staff understands the method.

**LEADERSHIP CONTACT**

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