



# What can YOU do for less than \$1?

## You can...

- Cover speech, language, and hearing services
- Avoid future claims for costly illnesses that are linked to untreated speech, language, and hearing disorders

Coverage of these services is important because disorders of speech, language, and hearing cost the U.S. economy an estimated **\$30 billion each year** in medical costs, lost productivity, and special education costs.<sup>1</sup>

## Did you know...

- Nearly 50 million Americans have a speech, language, or hearing disorder?<sup>2</sup>
- Approximately 30 million Americans have hearing loss?<sup>3</sup>
- One million Americans suffer brain damage each year from strokes, accidents, or brain tumors resulting in speaking and other communication disorders?<sup>4</sup>

## If left untreated...

- Swallowing problems (dysphagia) can lead to respiratory complications such as aspiration pneumonia and/or malnutrition<sup>5</sup>
- Hearing loss is linked to high blood pressure, coronary artery disease, and elevated cholesterol and lipid profiles<sup>6</sup>

*The cost of providing speech, language, and hearing services for enrollees is so much less than NOT providing the coverage.*

**Qualified audiologists and speech-language pathologists** can diagnose and treat individuals with speech, language, and hearing disorders and help lower the medical and financial impact of these disorders.

## Contact the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association today for more information:

- Visit ASHA's Web site at [www.asha.org/public/add-benefits/add.htm](http://www.asha.org/public/add-benefits/add.htm)
- E-mail [reimbursement@asha.org](mailto:reimbursement@asha.org)
- Call 800-638-8255 and ask to speak to a member of the Health Care Economics and Advocacy Team



AMERICAN  
SPEECH-LANGUAGE-  
HEARING  
ASSOCIATION

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(Footnotes)

- 1 National Institutes of Health. (1991). *A decade of progress ahead, 1990 annual report of the National Deafness and Other Communication Disorders Advisory Board*. Bethesda, MD: Author.
- 2 Web site of the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders ([http://ncmhd.nih.gov/strategic/mockour\\_programs/strategic/pubs/NIDCD-Rev.pdf](http://ncmhd.nih.gov/strategic/mockour_programs/strategic/pubs/NIDCD-Rev.pdf)); U.S. Census Bureau (<http://www.census.gov/>)
- 3 Mohr, P. E., Feldman, J. J., Dunbar, J. L., et al. (2000). The societal costs of severe to profound hearing loss in the United States. *International Journal of Technology Assessment in Health Care*, 16(4) 1120-1135.
- 4 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2005). Facts about traumatic brain injury. Available from [http://www.cdc.gov/Migrated\\_Content/Fact\\_Sheet/Fact\\_Sheet\\_\(General\)/Facts\\_About\\_TBI.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/Migrated_Content/Fact_Sheet/Fact_Sheet_(General)/Facts_About_TBI.pdf).
- 5 University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences. (n.d.). *Realtime Remote Medical Imaging Project*. Available from <http://white.shs.uiuc.edu:8080>
- 6 Hinrichs, B. (2003, April). To Your Health: Understanding Hearing Loss. *CHRC Newsletter*. Available from the Web site of the Palo Alto Medical Foundation: <http://pamf.org/health/toyourhealth/hearingloss.html>