

In the know with



WINTER 2021

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WINTER CLOSURES

Christmas- 12/24-12/27
NYE- Closing at 4pm
Employee Training- 1/7

Both offices close from 12-1pm for lunch

FINISHING THE YEAR STRONG

While the past 12 months have been a challenge, we still have a lot to celebrate as we reflect on 2021. It's hard to believe, but we are about to celebrate 1 year in our new Schertz location! Doss Audiology will also celebrate 9 years of providing quality hearing healthcare in 2022.

We are proud to have remained open throughout the pandemic, and now more than ever, it is important to stay connected to family and friends. Hearing is so crucial, and we don't want anyone to miss out on the simple joys in life.

Thank you to our loyal patients as we have navigated these challenging times. Our primary goal is to improve our patient's quality of life through restored hearing. Your cooperation with our health and safety protocols have helped us maintain that goal without an interruption of care or complete shut down. We hope by now, you all feel comfortable returning to our offices in-person, but we will do our best to serve our patients in whatever mode is most comfortable.

We have learned a lot and grown a lot, but our commitment to all of you remains!

MEDICARE ADVANTAGE PLANS

We often get patient questions regarding Medicare Advantage plans and hearing aid coverage. There are a lot of commercials and advertisements, and it can be hard to navigate the information and make an informed decision. In fact, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation, there are currently 54 Medicare plans, 766 Medicare Part D prescription drug plans, and 3,834 Medicare Advantage plans that will be available in 2022! This is an 8% increase from 2021.

Medicare Advantage plans are sold by private insurers, not the original Medicare program provided by the federal government. Most promise all-inclusive coverage including, dental, vision, and hearing. Some even offer to drive you to and from your doctor appointments! While some of what is advertised is true, it is important to read the fine print and compare plans. Especially because anything offered as “free” (including hearing aids) are not always “free”.

Most zero co-pay plans mean zero co-pay at your primary care doctor only. Co-pays may still apply at specialists and in other situations. Some also restrict your care to healthcare providers that are enrolled in your plan so it might mean switching doctors to stay within network. With Medicare Advantage, some participants can expect significant out of pocket expenses if they use out-of-network providers.

Medicare Advantage hearing aid offers vary greatly between plans. A plan will often advertise “free hearing aids”, but you need to do more research to determine what is actually covered. There may be a very basic device included with the plan, but it is typically mail-order and does not include any in-office care. If you choose higher quality or care with a live provider, you will be sent to a specific office that works with the plan (may or may not be an audiologist) and from there, additional fees apply. You are technically purchasing the hearing aid from the insurance company itself and then you get a limited number of visits with their provider for after-care. There are some plans that allow a dollar amount benefit that can be used at any in-network provider and those allow much more flexibility and choice for the patient.

Bottom line, read the fine print. If something seems too good to be true, it usually is!

Please consult with a Medicare specialist for complete details regarding plans and options

"As we look to the new year, hold on to what is good. Let go of what is bad. It really is that simple."

~ Mandy Hale

GOOD NEWS FOR ANDROID USERS

While we have been able to direct stream to iPhones and iPads for several years, Android has been a little later to the game when it comes to direct streaming with hearing aids. We are excited that Android software 11 and higher now has a low-energy Bluetooth signal that can communicate with hearing aids! If you have been waiting for direct streaming with Android contact our office today!

From the Front Desk:

CONGRATS DR. DOSS!

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Doss is a finalist in the Oticon Focus on People Awards contest. According to the press release, "The Oticon Focus on People Awards recognize outstanding people who are helping to show that hearing loss does not limit a person's ability to make a positive difference in their families, communities, or the world." This is a national award and Dr. Doss is nominated in the Hearing Care Practitioner category.

2022 OFFICE HOURS

After 18 long months of working 10-hour days to accommodate extra cleaning time and spacing of staff and patients, our team is excited to return to our "normal" business hours. We are also excited to add Monday to our Floresville schedule in 2022!

SCHERTZ HOURS

Monday-Friday
9am to 5pm

FLORESVILLE HOURS

Monday-Thursday
8am to 4pm

**Closed from 12pm to 1pm for lunch*





Cheers to 2022

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