INTRODUCTION

Over the years, cochlear implant candidacy has changed dramatically. When devices were first introduced, only patients with little to no ability to recognize speech were considered. Advances in technology and evolving ideas about who can benefit from a cochlear implant have expanded the candidate pool, which now can include adults and children with greater preoperative residual hearing, nontraditional candidates (such as those with additional disabilities), and “off label” patients who do not meet the approved indications for the device but could benefit nonetheless (such as those with single sided deafness or asymmetrical, progressive hearing loss).

This course explains the candidacy changes in greater detail and provides guidelines to help professionals determine if a referral to a cochlear implant center is appropriate for a particular patient. The webinar outlines the roles of audiologists and SLPs in making these recommendations and also discusses how to counsel patients regarding their possible candidacy for a cochlear implant.

LEARNING OUTCOMES
You will be able to:

- List current FDA indications and insurance coverage options for adults and children to receive a cochlear implant
- Describe the difference between a recommendation to implant a patient who meets FDA indications and a recommendation to implant a patient who does not meet FDA indications
- List various counseling topics that should be covered when a patient is referred for a cochlear implant evaluation

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PROGRAM HISTORY and IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Live webinar date: May 25, 2016  
Peer reviewed: March 27, 2017  
End date: March 27, 2020

To earn continuing education credit, you must complete and submit the learning assessment on or before March 27, 2020.

To see if this program has been renewed after this date, please search by title in ASHA’s online store at www.asha.org/shop.

This course is offered for 0.2 ASHA CEUs (Intermediate level, Professional area).

STATEMENT ON EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE

It is the position of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association that audiologists and speech-language pathologists incorporate the principles of evidence-based practice in clinical decision making to provide high-quality clinical care. The term evidence-based practice refers to an approach in which current, high-quality research evidence is integrated with practitioner expertise and client preferences and values into the process of making clinical decisions.

Participants are encouraged to actively seek and critically evaluate the evidence basis for clinical procedures presented in this and other educational programs.

Adopted by the Scientific and Professional Education Board, April 2006