



## your SoundCare<sup>®</sup> benefits

*Life's getting louder.*<sup>®</sup> Thanks to the cranked-up volume of modern life, hearing loss is becoming a major health problem. That's why your employer wants to give you access to a wellness benefit that helps protect and preserve your ability to hear.

### Sound Advice

Hearing loss afflicts more than 30 million adults, children and infants in the United States, and the number is expected to top 50 million by the year 2050. In addition to noise exposure, common causes include disease, unintended effects of certain prescription drugs and aging.

#### It's time to see a hearing professional when:

- You have trouble hearing on the phone.
- Others complain that your music or TV volume is too high.
- It's hard to hear in environments with background noise.
- You often misunderstand what someone has said.
- You think other people mumble.
- You watch people's facial expressions to help you understand the conversation.
- You experience dizziness, ringing or pain in your ears.

It's great to work for an employer who cares enough to offer the latest benefits for your health and well-being. We're proud to be your employer's carrier of choice for hearing benefits. **Toll-free customer service for SoundCare plan members: 877-359-8346.**

### Sound Bites

A hearing problem can hinder a child's ability to learn, self-esteem and language development. Studies indicate more than 5 million kids have hearing damage from amplified sounds. And more than half of U.S. high school students in a 2006 survey reported at least one symptom of hearing loss.

### An Additional Resource

When you call us to use your SoundCare benefits, we'll offer you the option of speaking with a trained EPIC Hearing Health Care counselor. If you choose to use this independent resource, it can help make finding and receiving hearing care easier.

EPIC offers a nationwide alliance of ear physicians, ENTs and audiologists for expert hearing evaluations and treatments. Their counselors will help you find an EPIC alliance provider, schedule an exam, receive treatment if needed, submit your claim and more. And, when assistive devices are needed, EPIC's purchasing arrangements with major hearing device manufacturers can mean substantial cost savings for you.



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