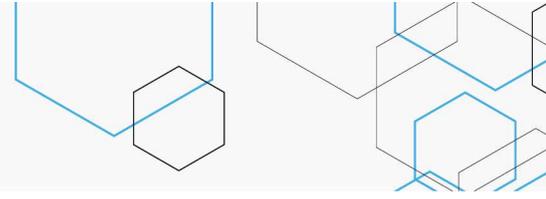


Personal frequency modulation system  
for hearing-impaired students at any age  
and at any academic level



**Technology:** Personal Frequency Modulation System.

**Indication:** Hearing-impaired students at any age and at any academic level, using personal hearing aids and/or cochlear implants.

**Applicant:** Secretariat of Specialized Health Care (Ministry of Health of Brazil).

**Background:** In order to allow the access of hearing-impaired children and/or young person to the personal frequency modulation system in the Brazilian Public Health System (SUS), the Ordinance No. 21/2013, published on May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013, made public the decision to incorporate this technology in the table of orthotics, prosthetics and special materials not related to the surgical procedure, available to individuals between five and 17 years of age. Currently, there is a need to make the access to this assistive technology available to all enrolled students at any academic level, without age restriction, which favours the signal-to-noise ratio between the device and the speaker's voice, that is, making the teacher's voice louder than the background noise, providing a better learning environment.

**Budget impact analysis:** Two scenarios were created. In scenario 1, the incremental budget impact to expand the use of the personal frequency modulation system, with immediate access to this technology by all possible users, was estimated to be BRL 43,042,500.00 in the first year, and BRL 69,618,708.00 after five years. In scenario 2, considering access limitations and an initial market share of 30%, the budget impact was estimated to be BRL 12,912,750.00 in the first year, and BRL 51,984,450.00 after five years.

**Initial Recommendation:** The members of Conitec's plenary session present at the 83<sup>rd</sup> Ordinary Meeting, on November 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019, decided that the subject matter should be made available in a public consultation with a favourable preliminary recommendation to the incorporation of the personal frequency modulation system for hearing-impaired students at any age and at any academic level.

**Public consultation:** The Public Consultation No. 69 was held from November 29<sup>th</sup> to December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019. A total of 192 contributions were received, 40 of which were technical-scientific contributions, and 152 were experience or opinion contributions. A total of 188 (98%) contributions agreed with the preliminary recommendation. The most mentioned topic in the contributions was the improvement of the learning process and cognitive development through the use of the personal frequency modulation system, as well as the need to expand the population. Other topics mentioned were improvement in quality of life, and better hearing and understanding of what is being said in an environment of socialization.

**Final Recommendation:** The Conitec's members present at the 85<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting, on February 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020, unanimously decided to recommend the expansion of the use of the personal frequency modulation system for hearing-impaired students at any age and at any academic level. Aspects related to the need to use this technology and its benefits were considered.

**Decision:** To expand the use of the personal frequency modulation system for hearing-impaired students at any age and at any academic level, in the scope of SUS, according to Ordinance No. 3, published in the Official Gazette of the Federal Executive No. 36, Section 1, page 106, on February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

