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Nota di contenuto	Front Matter Summary 1. Introduction 2. Considerations for evaluating hearing function 3. Characteristics and limitations of the hearing in noise test 4. Characteristics of hearing and speech tests 5. Evaluating hearing ability in persons with Cochlear implants with single-sided deafness or asymmetric hearing loss 6. Test comparisons and recommendations.
Sommario/riassunto	The U.S. Social Security Administration (SSA) administers programs that provide disability benefits. Once SSA establishes the presence of a severe impairment, it determines whether the impairment meets the criteria in the Listing of Impairments (Listings) that qualify a candidate for disability benefits. The current Listings that address hearing loss treated with cochlear implantation contain criteria that evaluate hearing ability through a speech recognition test called the Hearing in Noise Test (HINT). Since its development in 1994, the HINT has been widely used to measure cochlear implant candidacy and postoperative outcomes. However, the test characteristics, the state of cochlear implant technology, and the environment that made the HINT a common choice of assessment in 1994 are different in 2021. The HINT

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has several limitations in its characteristics and deviation from its intended use. At the request of SSA, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine convened a consensus study committee to identify and recommend generalized testing procedures and criteria for evaluating the level of functional hearing ability needed to make a disability determination in adults and children after cochlear implantation. The committee's report, Evaluating Hearing Loss for Individuals with Cochlear Implants, details and supports its findings, conclusions, and recommendations based on published evidence and professional judgment.