

Resources

Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf

3417 Volta Place NW
Washington, DC 20007-2278
202-337-5220 (voice)
202-337-5221 (TTY)
www.agbell.org

American Academy of Audiology

11730 Plaza America Dr, Ste 300
Reston, VA 20190
1-800-222-2336 (voice)
www.audiology.org

American Speech-Language- Hearing Association

10801 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20852
1-800-638-8255 (voice or TTY)
www.asha.org

Hearing Loss Association of America

7910 Woodmont Ave, Ste 1200
Bethesda, MD 20814
301-657-2248 (voice)
301-657-2249 (TTY)
www.shhh.org

League for the Hard of Hearing

71 West 23rd Street
New York, NY 10010
917-305-7700 (voice)
917-305-7999 (TTY)
www.lhh.org

Questions?

Call 206-598-4022

Your questions are important. Call your audiologist, doctor, or nurse practitioner if you have questions or concerns. UWMC clinic staff are also available to help at any time.

Otolaryngology – Head and Neck
Surgery Center – Audiology
Division: 206-598-4022

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
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Otolaryngology –
Head and Neck Surgery Center
Box 356161
1959 N.E. Pacific St. Seattle, WA 98195
206-598-4022

Patient Education

Otolaryngology – Head and Neck
Surgery Center



Hearing Aid Services

A hearing aid helps amplify sounds that a hearing-impaired person cannot hear. In the past, hearing aids provided a “louder” mix of sound, often exceeding comfort levels. Many of today’s hearing aids are designed so that their circuits may be adjusted to help amplify soft sounds, while keeping loud sounds comfortable. Your audiologist will advise you about circuitry options and styles of hearing aids suited to your hearing loss and lifestyle.

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How Hearing Aids Work

All hearing aids work similarly and have similar parts. These include:

- A microphone to pick up sound.
- An amplifier to make sound louder.
- A miniature loudspeaker (receiver) to deliver sound to the ear.
- Batteries to power the electronic parts.

Hearing aids will not restore normal hearing and are not a substitute for the ear. Certain listening situations (such as listening in background noise) will still be difficult, even with the use of hearing aids.

Getting a Hearing Aid

Hearing Test – We will conduct a hearing test to measure your hearing of different “pitches” and understanding of speech. This test provides information about the type and degree of your hearing loss. If your problem cannot be medically or surgically treated, you will be referred for a hearing aid evaluation.

Hearing Aid Evaluation – We will do more testing to find out which hearing aid will work best for you. We’ll talk to you about different sizes and types of hearing aids and your lifestyle and needs.

If you choose to proceed, the

audiologist will then make an impression of your ear(s) and generate a target prescription for you.

Hearing Aid Fitting – Your ear impression(s) will be sent to the manufacturer with your order for hearing aid(s). About 2 to 3 weeks later, you will return for a fitting. We will teach you how to use and care for your new hearing aid(s). We will also do special testing to make sure your hearing aid(s) is meeting your target prescription.

Follow-up Visits – To ensure proper fit and function of your hearing aid(s), we will schedule follow-up visits within the 30-day trial period. There is no charge for these visits.

Will my health insurance pay for this service?

Some health care plans will cover the cost of a hearing test, a hearing aid evaluation, and even the hearing aid itself. Check with your insurance company for your current level of benefit.

Trial Period

You must pay for your hearing aids on the date of delivery. If you are not satisfied and wish to return them, you can do so within the 30-day trial period, minus a fitting fee.

Hearing Aid Fittings

Fittings include:

- 30-day trial period.
- Scheduled follow-up visits for the first year for routine hearing aid maintenance.
- Start-up supply of batteries.
- Standard 1- to 2-year warranty and repair services within the warranty period.

Types of Hearing Aids

Conventional – These hearing aids are made up of mechanical and electrical parts. Your audiologist can adjust the response of the hearing aid using a screwdriver. There are conventional hearing aids with special circuits for people who cannot tolerate loud sounds.

Digital – These hearing aids convert incoming sounds into a stream of numbers, which are analyzed by a computer chip inside the hearing aid. Digital sound has minimal distortion and enhances speech. Many digital aids have special programs to reduce background noise. People who lead active lifestyles and who want state-of-the-art technology and flexibility may prefer a digital model.