



## Department of Audiology and Hearing Therapy

# What to Expect at a Hearing Aid Assessment Appointment

### What will happen at my appointment?

When you go to the hospital you will be seen by an audiologist, who may be accompanied by a student audiologist. Your appointment will last up to one hour.

Before the audiologist tests your hearing, they will ask you some questions about your hearing, and check your ears. The hearing test will last around 20 minutes. The audiologist will place headphones over your ears and will ask you to press a button each time you hear a sound and to release it as soon as it stops. Please do this even for extremely faint sounds.

The audiologist may then place a head band with a vibrating pad behind your ear (called a bone conductor). This pad transmits sound through the bones of your skull to the inner ear. Again, you will be asked to press a button each time you hear a noise. At some point during the test, the audiologist might play a “rushing” noise into one ear to cover up the sounds on that side while they test your other ear.

The audiologist will explain your test results to you and will be able to discuss whether hearing aids are likely to help you. If you decide to go ahead with hearing aid fitting, we may need to take impressions of your ears. This involves placing a foam bung into your ear canal and filling the ear with a putty material. This takes a few minutes to set and is then removed. The impressions will be sent away to be made into earmoulds for your hearing aids.

### What will happen next?

The audiologist will write a report about your hearing. This will be emailed to your GP. You may have a copy of this if you wish. The audiologist may be able to give this to you at the end of the appointment or they may arrange to post it to you.

If you are to have hearing aids fitted, we will arrange another appointment for this to be done.

### Should I bring somebody with me?

You are more than welcome to bring a partner, friend, relative or carer with you. Indeed, it can be useful to have somebody else there to take in all the information.

## What can I do to prepare for the appointment?

Please ensure that your ears are clear of wax for the appointment. If you are concerned that you may have a build-up of wax in your ears, please seek advice from your GP practice or local pharmacy. Do not use your fingers or any objects like cotton buds to remove earwax. This will push it in and make it worse.

It is also helpful to spend a few minutes considering the situations in which you have difficulty hearing, eg in group conversations, watching television, in restaurants etc.

## Contact Numbers:

We hope that you have found this information useful. If you have any questions or are worried about anything, please contact the Audiology Department:

Telephone: 01305 255563

Email: [Audiology@dchft.nhs.uk](mailto:Audiology@dchft.nhs.uk)

## Useful Websites:

RNID:  
<https://rnid.org.uk/information-and-support/>

C2Hear:  
<https://c2hearonline.com/>

Our Dorset Video Library:  
<https://healthvideos.ourdorset.nhs.uk/audiology>

## About this leaflet:

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If you have feedback regarding the accuracy of the information contained in this leaflet, or if you would like a list of references used to develop this leaflet, please email [pals@dchft.nhs.uk](mailto:pals@dchft.nhs.uk)



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