

Help with this leaflet:



If you would like this information in another language, large print or audio format, please ask the department to contact Patient Information: 01223 216032 or patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk



We are currently working towards a smoke free site. Smoking is only permitted in the designated smoking areas.

For advice and support in quitting, contact your GP or the free NHS stop smoking helpline on 0800 169 0 169

Audiology Department

Patient Information

I have been referred for a hearing aid assessment

What happens next?

Document history

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Introduction

This information is aimed at people who have been referred to Audiology by their GP or an Ear, Nose and Throat specialist for a hearing aid assessment.

Hearing assessment

You have been referred for a more detailed analysis of your hearing. The audiologist will discuss your lifestyle and particular hearing difficulties with you. You will also have some more hearing tests. We will decide the best options for meeting your specific hearing needs. If we decide to try out some hearing aids for you we might take impressions of your ear(s) to make an earmould, although some people with mild hearing loss may be able to use a soft open ear piece called an 'open fitting' that does not require an earmould. We will then arrange an appointment to have the aid(s) fitted. We look forward to guiding you through this new experience and ensuring you get the most from your new hearing aid.

Will I get hearing aids for both ears?

Having assessed your hearing and discussed your difficulties, the Audiologist will offer you hearing aids for both ears if this is appropriate. If hearing aids are not suitable for both ears the Audiologist will explain why.

Hearing aid fitting

Usually the hearing aid fitting will take place at an appointment about six weeks after your hearing needs assessment. We will check the fitting is comfortable and optimise the hearing aid settings to suit you. We will explain how to use the hearing aid and how to get the best from it.

Useful Information

The Audiology clinic is open Monday – Friday from 08.00 to 17.00.

Who is head of Audiology?

Mr David Baguley

Who is head of the Adult service?

Mrs Judith Bird

Who is head of the paediatric service?

Ms Ann Bol

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Can I have an in-the-ear digital hearing aid?

Although there are different styles of digital hearing aids available in the commercial sector, the standard issue NHS hearing aid is behind-the-ear style. In-the-ear hearing aids are not routinely available at Addenbrooke's Hospital. However, we have a variety of digital behind-the-ear aids, and will ensure that you are issued with the most appropriate one for your particular hearing loss.

Will the hearing aid and/or batteries cost me anything?

The NHS provides all hearing aids and batteries free of charge. Free replacement batteries are available from your local audiology department and various other places in our area. However, if a hearing aid is lost there may be a charge.

Useful websites

*Addenbrooke's Audiology

www.addenbrookes-audiology.org.uk

*Royal National Institute for the Deaf (RNID)

www.rnid.org.uk

*Cambridgeshire Social Services

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/sub/ssd/pd/deaf.htm

*National Deaf Children's Society (NDCS)

www.ndcs.org.uk

As with all hearing aids it takes time to get used to the sound, so we will arrange a follow up appointment or phone call, two to three months after you have had your aid fitted, to see how you are getting on.

What will things sound like with a hearing aid?

When you first wear your aid, you may find that some things are louder than you expect or remember – this is quite normal. Many people find that their own voice sounds strange. Wear the hearing aid as much as you can, even if it sounds a little strange at first. This will help you to adjust to the new sound. You will find it easier to hear if you can turn down any unwanted background noise. Ask your family and friends to speak clearly, and make sure that you can see their faces when they are speaking to you.

Will it be digital?

Yes. All new hearing aids issued by the NHS are now digital.

Will a digital hearing aid remove background noise?

Many people find it difficult to hear clearly if there is background noise, even if they have no hearing loss. A digital hearing aid uses special processing to try to make background noises quieter, but your hearing may still not sound as clear as you would like in some situations. Sometimes changes in your underlying hearing means that even though sounds are made loud enough, speech may never be as distinct as you would like.