

## Audiology Department

# Caring for your earmould

### Who is this leaflet for?

This leaflet is for hearing aid users. It aims to advise on cleaning and retubing earmoulds.

### Retubing your earmould

#### When/why

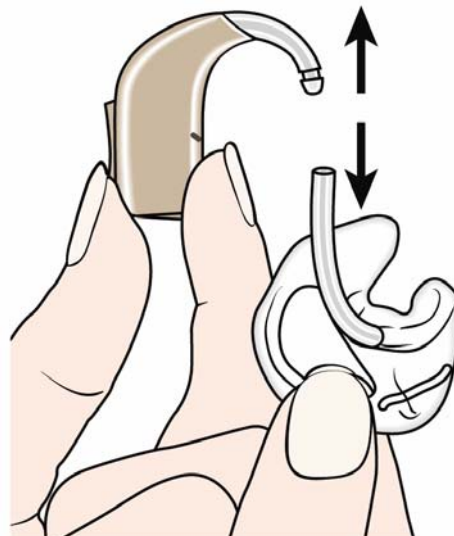
Your earmould comes with a tube in place which connects the earmould to the hearing aid. This tube requires replacing every four to six months as it naturally hardens and discolours, reducing the quality of the sound travelling through it. The tube can also become blocked up with wax and replacing the tube may be the only way to clear it completely.

Tubes can be replaced by the Audiology repairs service and at local hearing help sessions (see leaflet 'Local Hearing Help Sessions'). However, you may wish to retube earmoulds yourself.

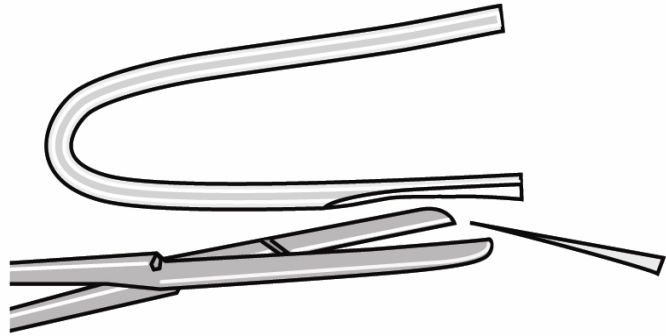
Retubing your own ear moulds saves the time and expense of attending the department's repair sessions or going to a local clinic.

### Instructions for retubing your earmould

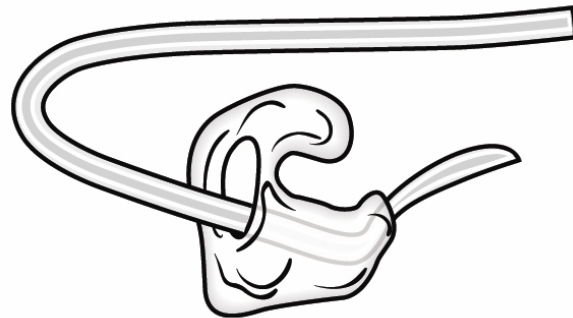
1. Remove the old existing tubing either with your hand or pliers.



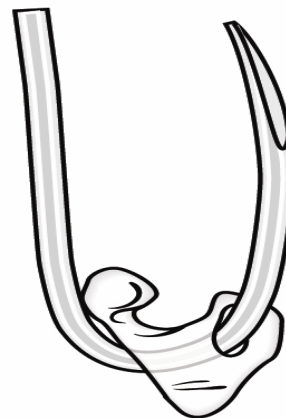
2. Ask Audiology/CAMTAD for a piece of tubing. Using a pair of scissors taper the edge of one side of the length of replacement tubing. Do not cut too close to the bend.



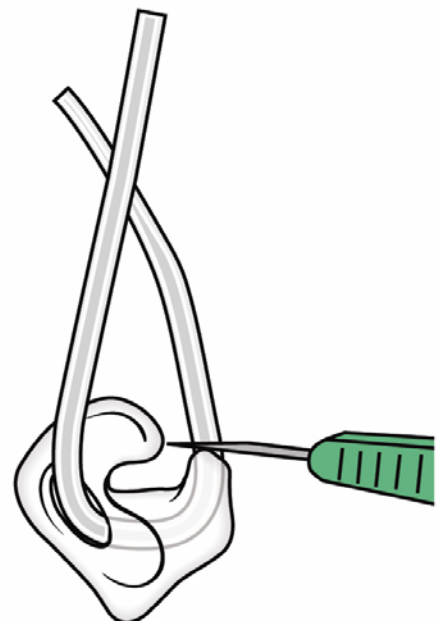
3. Thread the tube into your earmould from the outside, through to the part that fits inside your ear. Threaders can be purchased to help with this; see reference section for details.



4. Next pull the tubing through the earmould so that the remaining tubing is facing upwards at approximately a 50 degree angle.



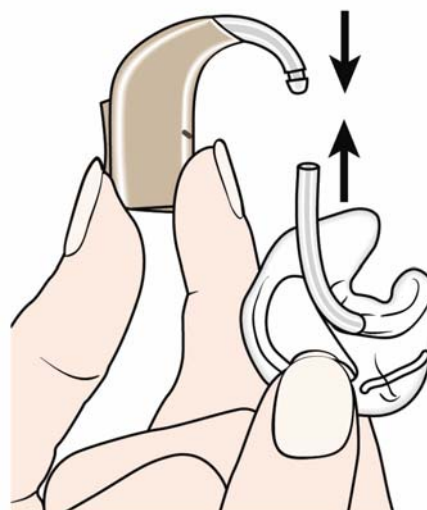
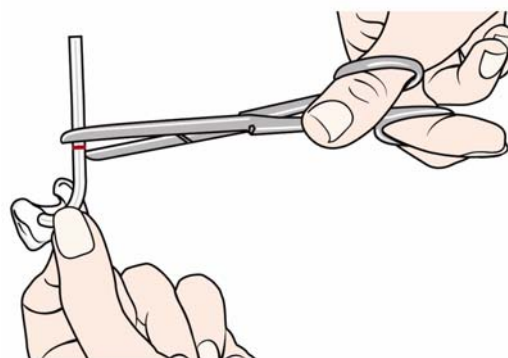
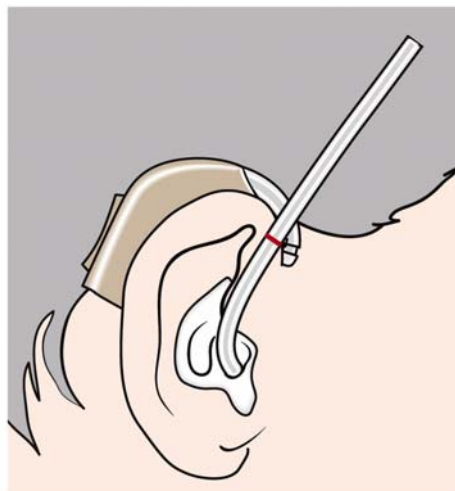
5. Using a razor blade or pair of scissors carefully cut the tapered tubing flush with the end



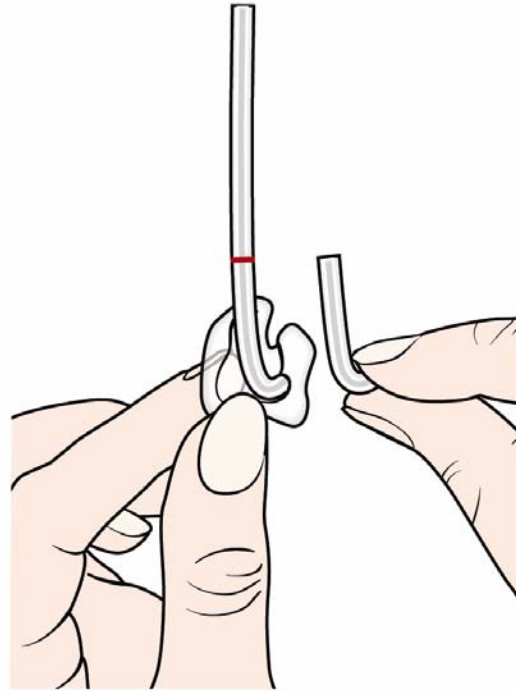
## Adjusting the length of the tube

Having put the new tube in place, you will need to cut it to the correct length. This is also necessary if you have received a new ear mould in the post.

- Once the new tube is in place, you need to cut the excess tubing to the appropriate length for your ear. Position the mould correctly in your ear and place the hearing aid over your ear in its normal position.
- Mark the position where the end of the hearing aid (the hook) overlaps the tubing, leaving enough tubing for the two to fit together comfortably. Note that you may need a mirror or another person to help you do this.
- Remove the earmould from your ear and cut the tubing where you have marked it.
- Finally, connect the earmould and tubing together. It is now ready for use.



- If you don't have anyone to help you with measuring the new tube, then an alternative is to use the old tube as a guide.



## Cleaning your earmould

It is important to keep your earmould clean, to ensure that you get the best sound from the hearing aid and you don't develop ear infections. If you detach the mould from the hearing aid it can be washed in warm, soapy water, but it must be dried thoroughly before it is re-connected. 'Earmould Puffers' can help to clear moisture from the tube (see the reference section for catalogues from which these can be purchased). You can also clean your earmould with antibacterial wipes after use to stop the spread of infection. If you do develop an ear infection, you should not wear your earmould. You should clean it thoroughly before using it again once the infection has cleared.

## Reference:

Connevans Catalogue. 2010. Equipment for deaf and hard of hearing people in education, employment, the home and leisure. Earmould tube threader. Page 106.

Ask a member of staff for a copy of these catalogues.



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

**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](mailto:patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk)



**Document history**

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