

You have been referred for an assessment of your hearing. It is possible that you will discuss hearing aid provision. This leaflet has been devised to provide you with some basic facts about hearing aids, what they can and can't do for you!

It is normal for hearing to decline with age and this is nothing to be embarrassed about.

- 👂 Do you have to turn up the TV or Radio more than you used to, or do you get complaints that the sound is too loud?
- 👂 Do you sometimes wish people would speak clearly and stop 'mumbling'?
- 👂 Do you sometimes misunderstand what people say or find yourself asking people to repeat things?
- 👂 Do you find it difficult to hear at social gatherings, when there is some background noise?
- 👂 Do you have difficulty hearing the doorbell or telephone ring or even conversations on the telephone?

Then you are right to consider a hearing aid.

Hearing aids will not restore your hearing to normal, or 'cure' your deafness. They are simply an 'aid to hearing.'

A hearing aid will not make your hearing worse. If you have tinnitus (hissing, buzzing or other noises in your ears or head) you will probably hear it less when you use a hearing aid.

What do hearing aids do?

How a digital hearing aid performs depends on how well it is programmed. This may be a time consuming task requiring several visits for fine-tuning.

When you first wear your aid, you may find that some things are louder than you expected or remember – this is quite normal. However in time, wearing the hearing aid as much as you can, even if it sounds a little strange, will help you adjust to the new sound. In a noisy place you may need to concentrate more on the voices you want to hear until you become accustomed to the new sound around you.

A common problem experienced by most new hearing aid users is the annoyance of background noise, this is quite normal.

Digital hearing aids can improve understanding of speech in the presence of background noise due to their special processing mechanism. However, background noise will still be amplified when speech is not present. However a digital hearing aid may not sound as clear as you would like in all situations. This may have nothing to do with the hearing aid at all. Sometimes changes in your inner ear mean that sounds will never be distinct even when they are made loud enough.

Digital hearing aids:

- fit behind the ear, they do not fit in the ear and are therefore not completely hidden
- do not suit everyone
- can still be poor clarity of speech and a 'blurring' of sounds
- May not be appropriate for severe and profound hearing losses

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What Digital Hearing Aids Can & Can't Do For You

If you require this leaflet in a different format i.e. larger print, please contact:



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