

Hearing Aids: Step By Step

Step 1: Audiogram

A hearing test, or audiogram, looks at how well you can detect different pitches along the range of human speech. Just as important, your audiologist may perform other tests, such as acoustic immittance or otoacoustic emissions. These tests

An audiologist is an expert who diagnoses and treats hearing and balance disorders.

measure how well different components of the auditory system are functioning and may help screen for some underlying medical conditions.

Your hearing test will serve as the starting point when fitting your hearing aid(s). Because small changes in your hearing may affect how we fit and set your hearing aids, we cannot use a hearing test that is more than 6 months old. If your test was completed more than 6 months ago and you would like to pursue hearing aids, you will need to have a new hearing test.

Most insurance companies cover the cost of your initial hearing test, although coverage for repeat hearing tests may vary.

Step 2: Medical Clearance

We ask that you see your doctor, preferably a specialist in diseases of the Ear, Nose, and Throat (“Otolaryngologist”), for “medical clearance” to obtain hearing aids. We want to make sure there are no underlying medical conditions that need to be addressed prior to your pursuing hearing aids. Like your hearing test, the medical clearance must be less than 6 months old at the time you obtain new hearing aids.

While we prefer and recommend that you obtain medical clearance, you have the option of signing a “medical waiver” if you and your audiologist decide that you have no apparent “red flags” prior to obtaining hearing aids. If your audiologist feels there is potential for an underlying medical condition that needs to be addressed, you will be required to see a physician.

Most insurance companies cover the cost of your medical clearance appointment.

Step 3: Hearing Aid Evaluation

This appointment, which generally lasts an hour, is your opportunity to discuss and choose your hearing aids with your audiologist. We will discuss in detail the style, technologies, and cost of hearing aids. Your audiologist will recommend what she feels is appropriate for you based on your hearing loss and needs. This is a great time to ask questions. We want you to feel comfortable and well informed when choosing your hearing aids. We encourage you to have someone with you in this visit. Once hearing aid(s) are chosen, we will order them for you. You will return in about two to four weeks for your hearing aid fitting.

For self-pay patients, you will owe a fee for the evaluation as well as a 10% down payment toward your hearing aids at the end of this appointment. If we are billing insurance for the cost of hearing aids, the amount you will owe at the end of this appointment will vary depending on your coverage. We will do our best to keep you informed as to how much you will owe and when.

Step 4: Hearing Aid Fitting

At this appointment the audiologist will fit your new hearing aids and teach you how to use it. The audiologist will check the physical fit and sound quality. She will make adjustments and take measurements to ensure that the hearing

aids are set properly. The audiologist will also teach you how to care and maintain your hearing aids. You will practice inserting and removing your hearing aids, changing the battery, etc. Expect this appointment to last about one hour.

For self-pay patients, the fitting fee plus the remaining balance for your hearing aids will be due at the end of this appointment. If we are billing insurance for the cost of hearing aids, the amount you will owe at the end of this appointment will vary depending on your coverage. We will do our best to keep you informed as to how much you will owe and when.

Step 5: Follow-up

We would like to follow-up with you approximately two to three weeks after you are fit with new hearing aids. This gives you a chance to trial them in the real world, then come back to see us with questions. If at this appointment you are happy with the fit and are adjusting well, your audiologist may suggest you come back every 6-12 months for routine follow up. If you or your audiologist has hesitations about how well you are adjusting to your hearing aids, he might ask to see you for another check before the end of your trial period.

All hearing aids come with at least a 1 year warranty; services covered may vary.

Disclaimer: This document is for informational purposes only and is not intended to take the place of the care and attention of your personal physician or other professional medical services. Talk with your doctor if you have Questions about individual health concerns or specific treatment options.

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