

Hearing Aids

This leaflet explains what will happen if your Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) doctor has referred you for hearing aids.

What are hearing aids?

Hearing aids are small electronic devices that help you hear more clearly. They can:

- Make quiet sounds easier to hear
- Make loud sounds more comfortable
- Help you follow conversations
- Improve your enjoyment of TV, radio, and music
- Help in noisy places
- Sometimes reduce tinnitus (ringing in the ears)

All hearing aids provided by the NHS are *behind-the-ear* style and come in two main types depending on your hearing needs.

Hearing aids with earmoulds

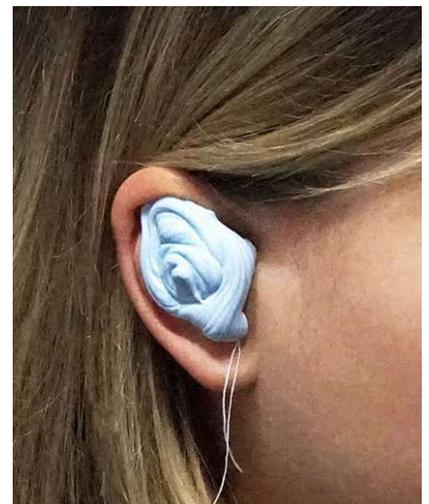


These use a custom-made earpiece (an earmould).

If ear impressions were **not** taken during your ENT visit, you will need a short **15-minute appointment** to take these.

This involves placing soft putty in your ear to take an accurate impression.

Once your earmould is ready (or if impressions were already taken), you will be booked for a **45-minute fitting appointment**.



Hearing aids with slimtubes



If your hearing is suitable for slimtubes, you will go straight to a **45-minute fitting appointment**.

Fitting appointments

At your fitting appointment we will ask you some questions about your ears and general health. We will talk through situations you are having difficulty hearing in. It would be helpful if you can give this some thought before you attend.

Your latest hearing test results will be used to create a prescription, and the hearing aids will be programmed to this. We may place a soft, thin tube into your ear canal as part of the process, and play you medium, soft and loud sounds to see how the hearing aid performs in your ear, and to ensure a good match to your hearing test.

We will show you how to use and maintain the hearing aids and you will receive an instruction book and a battery book. Batteries are supplied free of charge from many local Hospitals, but are also widely available to buy.

Before the appointment, please ensure your ears are free of wax. Wax can block ears and affect the results of your hearing aid fitting. If your ears are blocked with wax, please see your practice nurse or GP for wax removal prior to your appointment.

If you wear glasses, please bring them along with you.

If you need an interpreter, please contact us for this to be arranged. We cannot guarantee availability of interpreters for all languages, so please arrange this well in advance.

You are welcome to bring a relative, friend or carer with you to your appointment.

If you would prefer not to have a hearing aid fitting, please contact us as soon as possible so that we can offer this valuable appointment to someone else.

If you have any questions please contact us on:

01225 824035
ruh-tr.audiology@nhs.net

or visit www.ruh.nhs.uk/patients/services/clinics/audiology/