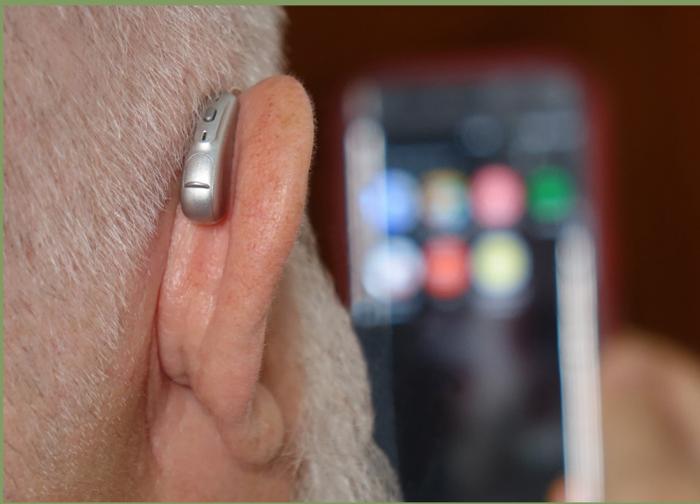


An Introduction to Hearing Aids



What can they do for you?

Hearing Aids

CAN

- Significantly improve hearing for some people
- Provide clearer, enhanced sound quality
- Improve communication in many environments
- Help some people who suffer from tinnitus

CANNOT

- Fully restore your original hearing
- Facilitate perfect communication in all environments
- Eliminate tinnitus completely

Realistic Expectations

Be patient! Your brain needs time to adjust to your hearing aid. Hearing aids need regular care and maintenance. Periodic adjustments may be required for optimal performance.



NC DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Division of Services for the
Deaf and Hard of Hearing

www.ncdhhs.gov/dsdhh

What are Hearing Aids

- Hearing aids are small, electronic devices that you wear in or behind your ear.
- Hearing aids amplify the sounds around you and transmit them to your brain for auditory processing.
- Most modern hearing aids are digital, with more precise, high quality sound, and calibrated to meet your hearing needs.

Why Hearing Aids

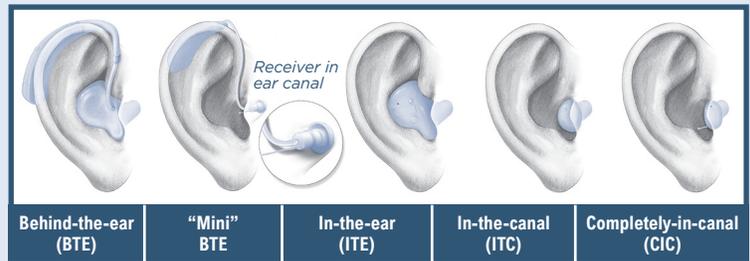
- You may be able to listen, communicate, and participate more fully in daily activities.
- You may hear better on the phone, at home and in noisy environments.
- Untreated hearing loss can increase the risk of falling, brain shrinkage, dementia, and other health conditions.
- Some hearing aids help with the ringing, buzzing, roaring, clicking sounds, known as tinnitus, that can accompany hearing loss or exist on their own.

Funding Hearing Aids

- Check with your insurance company to see if they provide hearing aid coverage.*
**Generally, Medicare does not cover hearing aids unless it is through supplemental programs.*
- DSDHH can provide one hearing aid equipped with a telecoil at no cost for qualified applicants and offers a hearing aid loan program.
- Additional funding options are available from the Department of Veterans Affairs, national service organizations and hearing aid banks.
- If hearing loss is a barrier to getting or keeping a job, the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation may be able to help. Visit VR's website: ncdhhs.gov/divisions/dvrs

Below are some of the types of hearing aids

Photo courtesy of the National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services.



- An audiologist or hearing instrument specialist can recommend a device that works best for your hearing needs.
- Ask your provider for a trial period to use your device and be sure you have the right fit before finalizing purchase.

Common Features

- Telecoil (T-Coil):** A small metal coil that allows clear reception from telephones and inductive loop systems, which are often found in theatres, places of worship and conference rooms.
- Directional Microphones:** Multiple microphones that can be adjusted to help hear in noisy environments.
- Multiple Program Settings:** User-specific settings allow easy switching for different environments.
- Bluetooth, MFi, MFA:** Technology that helps user hear sound directly from an iOS or Android device.
- Hearing Aid Accessories:** Many hearing aid manufacturers make small remote microphones and TV streamers that enable users to hear more clearly and with less effort in certain environments.

For more information, visit
ncdhhs.gov/dsdhh

or call a regional center near you
1-800-851-609