

Hearing Aid Assessment Appointment

Head and Neck - Audiology

The prevention of infection is a major priority in all healthcare and everyone has a part to play.

- Please decontaminate your hands frequently for 20 seconds using soap and water or alcohol gel if available
- If you have symptoms of diarrhoea and/or vomiting, cough or other respiratory symptoms, a temperature or any loss of taste or smell please do not visit the hospital or any other care facility and seek advice from 111
- Keep the environment clean and tidy
- Let's work together to keep infections out of our hospitals and care homes.

Introduction

You have been referred by your doctor for an assessment of your hearing. The reason you have been sent to us is because there is some worry, either from your doctor, yourself or even your family and friends about how well you hear. As deterioration in hearing is usually a gradual process, you may not realise that you even have a hearing loss. There are many reasons why adults might lose their hearing other than natural degeneration, such as being exposed to loud noises for prolonged periods, ear infections or viruses, head injuries and family genetics.

Aim of this leaflet

This leaflet explains what will happen during your hearing assessment appointment and outlines everything you need to do to prepare for the appointment. It will also list possible outcomes.

Before the appointment

Is there anything I need to do before the appointment?

Before the appointment, please ensure your ears are free of wax. Wax can block ears and affect the results of your hearing test. 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, do 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, close friend or carer with you to your appointment.

What will happen on the day of the appointment?

You will be seen by a qualified clinician. You will be asked questions about your ears and your hearing difficulties and the Audiologist will have a look in your ears. You will also have a general discussion about how your hearing affects day-to-day activities. The Audiologist will use your answers to complete a questionnaire about specific situations in which you may or may not be having difficulties.

Your appointment will take around 45 minutes.

How will my hearing be tested?

The following tests will then be conducted.

Hearing Test: Headphones will be placed over your ears or a boneconductor headband behind one ear, and you will be asked to respond by pressing a button as soon as you hear a sound. These sounds will vary in loudness and pitch. We measure the pitch of hearing in Hertz (Hz) and loudness in decibels (dB).

Depending on your results the following tests may also be conducted

Tympanometry: This test allows us to see how your eardrums are moving and whether there is any congestion behind them. A soft plastic tip is placed into your ear and you will feel a slight change of pressure (as your eardrum is gently moved) and hear a low pitched tone.

Acoustic reflex threshold test: During this test, you will hear a series of tones in your ear through a soft probe. This will assess how well a small muscle in your middle ear is working.

What will happen after I have had my hearing tested?

After the testing is complete, the audiologist will agree an appropriate management plan with you, based on the results and the amount of difficulty you are having.

This may include one or more of the following:

- Trying hearing aids
- Upgrading or reprogramming your existing hearing aids
- Referral to other services for further investigation or management
- Using communication tactics
- No further management, if appropriate.

What will happen if hearing aids are required?

Please note the service that will provide your hearing aids will be dependent on the history you have described and your hearing loss type. If you have a non-complex age related loss we are not commissioned to provide your hearing aids and you will require onward referral by your GP to an alternative provider.

If hearing aids are required, the audiologist will take measurements of your ears.

They may take the shape of your ears so that customised ear moulds can be produced. This involves syringing some soft impression material into your ear and waiting for it to set (about three minutes). It will be removed and sent to the manufacturers to be made.

Alternatively, we may measure you for a slim tube style hearing aid. This type of hearing aid has a thin tube attached to it with a dome at the end. The thin tube and dome come in different sizes so we will ensure we select the most appropriate size for you.

Are there any risks associated with the procedures?

Some patients may experience slight discomfort during impression taking and there is a risk of minor trauma to your outer ear canal, however this risk is very small. A safety risk assessment is always carried out by the clinician prior to impression taking to ensure that it is safe to continue.

What happens after the appointment?

Depending on your management plan you may be given

- A further appointment to have a hearing aid fitted
- Referral to other services for further investigation or management
- If no further management is required you may be discharged back to your initial referrer.

What will happen to my hearing test results?

You will receive a copy of your hearing test results with an accompanying letter outlining the outcome of your assessment appointment. This will also be sent to the person who referred you to the Audiology Department. This will normally be your GP. If you require an onward referral to the Ear Nose and Throat (ENT) Department, a letter will be sent to the ENT consultant explaining the reason for the referral. A copy of the hearing test is also stored in your hospital records digitally on the Audiology database.

If I need to cancel my appointment?

If you need to cancel your appointment, please call us as soon as possible using the contact details shown in this leaflet. You can contact the Audiology Department between 8am and 4.30pm, Monday to Friday or by email. If you're unable to attend your appointment, then please contact us immediately. If you cancel your appointment more than two times, you will be discharged back to your GP and will need to be referred to our service again.

If you fail to attend this appointment, you will be discharged back to your GP's care and will need a new referral in line with the Trust Policy.

Have your say

The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust aims to provide high quality services. However, please tell us when something could be improved. If you have a comment or compliment about a service or treatment, please raise your comments with a member or staff.

Contact details

Audiology Department

West Park Hospital

Park Road West

Wolverhampton

WV1 4PW

Telephone: 01902 444055

Text: 07800 006475

<http://www.royalwolverhampton.nhs.uk/>

Email: rwh-tr.adults-audiology@nhs.net

Opening Hours: Monday – Friday, 8am – 4.30pm.

English

If you need information in another way like easy read or a different language please let us know.

If you need an interpreter or assistance please let us know.

Lithuanian

Jeigu norėtumėte, kad informacija jums būtų pateikta kitu būdu, pavyzdžiui, supaprastinta forma ar kita kalba, prašome mums apie tai pranešti.

Jeigu jums reikia vertėjo ar kitos pagalbos, prašome mums apie tai pranešti.

Polish

Jeżeli chcieliby Państwo otrzymać te informacje w innej postaci, na przykład w wersji łatwej do czytania lub w innym języku, prosimy powiedzieć nam o tym.

Prosimy poinformować nas również, jeżeli potrzebowaliby Państwo usługi tłumaczenia ustnego lub innej pomocy.

Punjabi

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪ ਵਿਚ, ਜਿਵੇਂ ਪੜ੍ਹਨ ਵਿਚ ਆਸਾਨ ਰੂਪ ਜਾਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਦੂਜੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ, ਚਾਹੀਦੀ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਦੱਸੋ।

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਦੁਭਾਸ਼ੀਏ ਦੀ ਜਾਂ ਸਹਾਇਤਾ ਦੀ ਲੋੜ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਦੱਸੋ।

Romanian

Dacă aveți nevoie de informații în alt format, ca de exemplu caractere ușor de citit sau altă limbă, vă rugăm să ne informați.

Dacă aveți nevoie de un interpret sau de asistență, vă rugăm să ne informați.

Traditional Chinese

如果您需要以其他方式了解信息，如易读或其他语种，请告诉我们。

如果您需要口译人员或帮助，请告诉我们。