

BEST-PRACTICE HEARING AID EVALUATION & RECOMMENDATION

A hearing aid recommendation should be based on the person's hearing loss, communication needs, abilities, preferences, lifestyle and treatment goals.

Hearing Needs and Goals

- ☐ Lifestyle and listening environments discussed
- ☐ Communication difficulties identified
- ☐ Patient's perception of hearing difficulties discussed
- ☐ Treatment needs, priorities and goals established
- ☐ Listening-needs questionnaire completed where appropriate
- ☐ Previous hearing aid experience reviewed
- ☐ Realistic expectations discussed

Individual Considerations

The recommendation takes the following into account:

- ☐ Hearing loss and word-recognition ability
- ☐ Cognition | Dexterity | Vision considered in recommendation
- ☐ Ear and ear-canal anatomy
- ☐ Cosmetic preferences
- ☐ Comfort and retention needs
- ☐ Ability to operate and maintain the devices
- ☐ Family or caregiver support where appropriate

Hearing Solution Options

- ☐ Monaural versus binaural fitting discussed
- ☐ Hearing Aid Style Options considered
 - ☐ Receiver-in-Canal or Receiver-in-the-Ear — RIC/RITE
 - ☐ Behind-the-Ear — BTE
 - ☐ Custom hearing aids — ITE, ITC, CIC or IIC
 - ☐ CROS or BiCROS where indicated
- ☐ Bone-conduction / implantable hearing solutions where indicated
- ☐ Cochlear implant referral where indicated

Physical and Acoustic Options

- ☐ Domes versus custom earmoulds discussed
- ☐ Venting and acoustic coupling considered
- ☐ Comfort, feedback, retention and occlusion considered

Technology and Features

- ☐ Available technology levels explained
- ☐ Recommended technology level identified
- ☐ Reason for the recommendation explained
- ☐ Rechargeable and disposable-battery options discussed
- ☐ Noise management & directional microphone features discussed
- ☐ Tinnitus features discussed where relevant
- ☐ Telecoil or specialised listening features discussed where relevant

Connectivity and Accessories

- ☐ Smartphone and device compatibility confirmed
- ☐ Hearing aid application discussed - if required
- ☐ Call and audio streaming discussed -if required
- ☐ Remote-care or telecare requirements considered
- ☐ Remote microphone, FM system, TV Streamer

Process and Costs

- ☐ Cost of devices and aspects included & excluded explained
- ☐ Process of payment / claiming from medical aid explained
- ☐ Fitting and follow-up process explained
- ☐ Adaptation period discussed
- ☐ Professional and follow-up services explained
- ☐ Warranty and loss-and-damage cover discussed
- ☐ Final recommendation and clinical rationale documented