

## **Patient appointment Information Hearing Assessment**

### **Why might I need a Hearing Assessment?**

There are several possible causes of hearing loss. A temporary hearing loss may be due to a cold, wax or an infection. A permanent hearing loss may be due to genetics, noise exposure, disease or age. Many people, as they get older, develop age-related hearing loss (presbycusis) and may benefit from using hearing aid/s. Your GP (family doctor) has referred you to us for an assessment of your hearing with a view to being prescribed hearing aid/s.

### **What preparation do I need to do?**

Before your visit if you have any special communication and/or mobility requirements please contact on 0117 3425854 option 2 as soon as possible

### **Can I bring someone with me?**

If you would like to be accompanied by a friend, relative or carer we would welcome this. It can be very helpful to have someone with you to help with remembering all the information we will give you.

### **Who will I see for my hearing assessment?**

You will see a trained specialist called an audiologist. They will be registered with either the Health Professionals Council or the Registration Council for Clinical Physiologists. These are the organisations responsible for ensuring that all audiologists are competent and appropriately trained.

As a teaching hospital you may be seen by a student audiologist on a clinical placement with us from their University. If you prefer not to be seen by a student, then please inform us prior to your appointment date to enable us to rearrange our schedule.

### **What happens during the test?**

You will be asked a number of questions about your hearing history, the audiologist will also examine your ears before performing a test of your hearing. Headphones will be placed over your ears and you will be asked to listen to sounds of different pitch and levels of loudness. You will be asked to press a button each time you hear a sound. The audiologist may also make the sounds louder to find out the level at which you start to find them uncomfortable to listen to. Sometimes it is necessary to do further non-invasive tests. The Audiologist will explain these to you at the time should this be necessary.

The test results are used to determine the level and nature of your hearing problem and should you require hearing aids, to enable us to programme hearing aids to your hearing loss. The tests can also show up any problems with your eardrum or middle ear. In some cases this might require you to attend an Ear, Nose and Throat department to see a consultant for further advice. Your GP will be advised if this is the case and make the referral for you.

### **When will I know the results of the assessment?**

As soon as the tests are completed, the audiologist will explain the results to you and discuss the options you have. This might be referral back to your GP or you may benefit from Hearing Aids.

### **What happens next?**

If hearing aids are recommended and you decide to go ahead with a trial the options will be discussed with you and you will agree a management plan with your audiologist. You will either:

- have an impression taken of your ear/s to enable us to make ear mould/s for fitting of the hearing aid and be given an appointment to return for fitting of a hearing aid
- you will be fitted with a hearing aid on the day of your appointment or you will be given an appointment date to return for fitting of your hearing aid.

We will also provide you with a copy of your results and management plan you agreed with your audiologist.

Following your appointment a full report detailing your test results and providing information on your treatment plan will be sent to your GP.

### **What if I can't find the answer to my question in this leaflet?**

If you have questions not answered by this leaflet please don't hesitate to contact us for further information, using either the address, email address or telephone numbers on the enclosed letter.

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