

## Thinking of Hearing Aids?

Information on how to get hearing aids, and/or assistive listening devices

Department of Audiology – 613-546-3382

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### What can I expect from hearing aids?

Hearing aids **do not** restore natural, normal hearing. Instead, they amplify, or increase weak sounds through a small speaker. It is important that you have realistic expectations about what hearing aids can, and can't do.

### What happens at my hospital appointment?

- During the Hearing Aid Evaluation, the Audiologist will assess the need for amplification, and discuss with you the options available.
- You will receive information about the Assistive Device Program (ADP) which provides financial assistance for hearing aids.
- If amplification is needed, the Audiologist will give you a prescription.
- You will also be given a list of ADP-approved vendors in the area (these are the people or businesses that sell hearing aids.) You can take the prescription to a vendor of your choice.

### Is my appointment covered by OHIP?

**Diagnostic hearing tests are covered by OHIP; however your Hearing Aid Evaluation/ Prescription and Hearing Aid Follow-up evaluation are not.**

In order to provide these services at Hotel Dieu Hospital a fee will apply. The fees for these services are as follows:

- Hearing Aid Evaluation including first follow-up evaluation: \$ 75.00
- Each additional hearing aid follow-up appointment: \$ 50.00\*
- Analysis of hearing aids only: \$ 25.00\*

These fees can be claimed as a medical expense on your Income Tax return, or in some cases, they may be covered through an Extended Health Benefit Plan.

\*When your hearing aids are purchased at the Hotel Dieu Hospital Dispensary your appointment fees are included for the first two years.

### What happens after my appointment?

- You are free to choose which person or business (vendor) you want to buy your hearing aids from. Hearing aids can range in price from approximately \$500 to \$2,500 each after the ADP grant has been applied.

- Take your prescription and all other relevant documents to the vendor of your choice.
- The vendor will take ear mold impressions to make sure the devices will fit you properly.
- Your hearing aids will be delivered in about 2 weeks' time. Once you have received your hearing aids, the vendor will require payment.
- You will have a trial period to use the devices in many different listening situations.

### **What happens at my follow-up appointment at the hospital?**

- A follow-up appointment will be made for you, to return to the Audiology Department at the hospital.
- At this appointment, the Audiologist will assess your hearing aids and/or assistive listening devices to make sure they are working properly, and meet your needs.
- You and the Audiologist will decide together if the devices are satisfactory.

### **What if the hearing aids aren't satisfactory?**

- If the hearing aids are not satisfactory they can be returned to the vendor, but only within the trial period.
- Most vendors will charge a return fee to cover their time, service and materials. The fee may range from \$100 to \$200 per hearing aid.
- If you return the hearing aids and choose to try another set of hearing aids instead, credit will be applied to the new set.

### **Important Points**

- If your hearing changes, or if you think something is wrong with your hearing aids, **let us know** right away. Hearing aids do occasionally need servicing and repair.
- Don't put the aids in a drawer and say they don't work. All you have to do is set up an appointment and someone can help you, either in this Department or in the office where you bought your hearing aids.