

## **What is a Tinnitus Evaluation?**

### **Department of Audiology 613-546-3382**

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### **TIN-nit-us or Tin-NIGHT-tus?**

Both pronunciations are correct. The word is of Latin origin and it means ‘to tinkle or to ring like a bell’.

### **What is tinnitus?**

- Tinnitus is the perception of a noise or a sound in the ears or in the head, in the absence of an external source.
- You may have recognized it, for example, as ringing, buzzing, roaring or hissing.
- It can be loud or soft.
- It can be there all the time or it can come and go.

### **Is tinnitus a common problem?**

Yes. Almost everyone has experienced ringing or buzzing in his or her ears at one time or another.

### **What causes tinnitus?**

There are many suspected causes. It often occurs with hearing loss. Also, being exposed to loud sounds such as loud music, power tools, chain saws and firearms can cause tinnitus.

### **Who is eligible for an evaluation?**

Once medical and/or treatable causes have been investigated, anyone who requires help coping with their tinnitus may be referred by a physician for a tinnitus evaluation.

### **What is a tinnitus evaluation?**

A tinnitus evaluation is an appointment with an audiologist at the Hospital. During this appointment:

- the audiologist will check your hearing if this has not already been done.
- you will discuss your tinnitus with the audiologist, and how it affects you.
- you will fill out a questionnaire exploring how tinnitus affects your daily routine.
- the audiologist will measure how loud your tinnitus is, and at what pitch it is strongest.
- the audiologist will discuss management options with you. This may include a sound masker or hearing aids.
- you will be given an information package about tinnitus.

## **Is my appointment covered by OHIP?**

No. The Ministry of Health announced that effective August 13, 2001, appointment fees for tinnitus evaluation have been removed from the OHIP insured services fee schedule.

In order to continue to offer these services, Hotel Dieu Hospital will now bill patients for these evaluations. The fee for a tinnitus evaluation is \$75.00.

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

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