

Characteristics of Amplification Tool (COAT)

Name: _____ Date: _____

Our goal is to maximize your ability to hear so that you can more easily communicate with others. In order to reach this goal, it is important that we understand your communication needs, your personal preferences, and your expectations. By having a better understanding of your needs, we can use our expertise to recommend the hearing aids that are most appropriate for **you**. By working together **we** will find the best solution for you.

Please complete the following questions. Be as honest as possible. Be as precise as possible. Thank you.

1. Please list the top three situations where you would most like to hear better. Be as specific as possible.

2. How important is it for you to hear better? Mark an X on the line.

Not Very Important ----- *Very Important*

3. How motivated are you to wear and use hearing aids? Mark an X on the line.

Not Very Motivated ----- *Very Motivated*

4. How well do you think hearing aids will improve your hearing? Mark an X on the line.

I expect them to:

Not be helpful at all ----- *Greatly improve my hearing*

5. What is your most important consideration regarding hearing aids? Rank order the following factors with **1** as the most important and **4** as the least important. Place an **X** on the line if the item has no importance to you at all.

- ___ Hearing aid size and the ability of others not to see the hearing aids
- ___ Improved ability to hear and understand speech
- ___ Improved ability to understand speech in noisy situations (e.g., restaurants, parties)
- ___ Cost of the hearing aids

6. Do you prefer hearing aids that: (check one)

- are totally automatic so that you do not have to make any adjustments to them.
- allow you to adjust the volume and change the listening programs as you see fit.
- no preference

7. Look at the pictures of the hearing aids. Please place an X on the picture or pictures of the style you **WOULD** be willing to use. Your audiologist will discuss with you if your choices are appropriate for you – given your hearing loss and physical shape of your ear.

BTE (Behind-the-Ear)



These instruments are most appropriate for children and patients with a moderately severe to severe hearing loss. It is also useful for patient's with moderate earwax accumulation and moisture issues. Remotes are most compatible with this style, allowing the patient to adjust their hearing instruments with the push of a button.

ITE (In-the-Ear)



This is a custom hearing instrument (requiring an impression) that fills the outer portion of the ear. It is most appropriate for mild to moderately-severe hearing losses. Many options can be included in this style due to it's larger size. Some manual dexterity is needed to use this instrument.

ITC (In-the-Canal)



This is a custom instrument that fits nicely into the ear canal. It is smaller than a full shell and therefore is more cosmetic. Features can include directional microphone, multiple listening programs, telephone compatibility, and volume control. Some options may be limited due to size.

Mini-Canal



This is a custom instrument that fits deeper into the ear than the ITC, therefore is more cosmetic. It is most appropriate to fit mild to moderate hearing losses. The deep fit benefits from the patient's natural ear canal resonance, therefore requiring less volume. Many options can come with this product, but may also be limited due to the size of the patient's ear.

CIC (Completely-in-the-Canal)



This is a custom instrument that fit's the deepest in the ear of all of our hearing instruments. It also benefits from natural ear canal resonance and is very cosmetic. Many options can come with this model, but may be limited due to the size of the patient's ear. This is not an appropriate fit for a child or someone with a very small ear canal, someone with a history of wax issues or ear drainage.

Open Ear Fitting



This new innovative product benefits mild to moderate hearing losses, particularly those with high frequency losses. It's lightweight behind the ear case and replaceable tubing and ear tip, allow it to be worn comfortably. It's very cosmetic, easy to fit in the office, and offers 100% digital technology. Demonstrations of these hearing aids are available in our office.

RIC (Receiver-in-the-Canal)



RIC open fittings look quite similar to the open fittings. But contrary to most conventional behind-the-ear instruments, the receiver is placed within the canal. Since the receiver is no longer within the behind-the-ear (BTE) unit, but inside the canal – and connected to the BTE component via thin tubing – the BTE unit is particularly small, light, and inconspicuous.

8. How confident do you feel that you will be successful in using hearing aids.

Not Very Confident ----- *Very Confident*

9. There is a wide range in hearing aid prices. The cost of hearing aids depends on a variety of factors including the sophistication of the circuitry (for example, higher level technology is more expensive than the more basic hearing aids) and size/style (for example, the CIC hearing aids are more expensive than the BTE instruments). The price ranges listed below are for **one** hearing aid. Please check the cost category that represents the maximum amount you are willing to spend. Please understand that you are not locked into that price range. It is just very helpful for us to know your budget so that we can provide you with the most appropriate hearing aids.

- _____ Basic digital hearing aids: Cost is between \$ 1,800.00 to \$2,100.00
- _____ Mid-level digital hearing aids: Cost is between \$ 2,300.00 to \$2,500.00
- _____ Premium digital hearing aids: Cost is between \$ 2,500.00 to \$2,600.00

**Thank you for answering the questions.
Your responses will assist us in providing you with the best hearing healthcare.**