



# What Services are Included in my Hearing Aid Evaluation?

*Drs. Mary Ann Gaskin and Sara Conrad, Audiologists*

Thank you for trusting us to provide the best hearing care possible to you. In preparation for your hearing aid evaluation, we'd like to explain what services are included during this 1 hour appointment and follow-up.

Following a comprehensive audiological evaluation, in which we have assessed the type, degree, and configuration of your hearing loss, we may recommend amplification. However, all of our patients have unique needs, and there is no "one best" hearing aid on the market that is suitable for all patients. Therefore, during the hearing aid evaluation, we will discuss:

- Style of recommended amplification (receiver in the ear, behind the ear, custom, etc)
- Ease of use with consideration of any dexterity limitations
- Possible use of accessories and assistive technologies, such as TV streamers, cell phone streamers, remote controls, remote microphones, custom molds, etc.
- Lifestyle and suitable level of technology
- Improving communication strategies
- Realistic expectations with amplification given the type and severity of hearing loss
- Possible use of tinnitus masking (sound therapy for ringing in the ears)
- Cosmetic concerns

After providing our recommendations for amplification and answering all of your questions (please feel free to bring a loved one with you so that we can answer their questions as well), you will most likely be going home with demonstration hearing aids, where you will have the ability to use the devices in your everyday situations. Hearing aids have very tiny computers inside which will take measurements of the listening environments you are in, such as how often you are in quiet rooms versus busy restaurants, listening to music, around noisy machinery, etc. This will allow us to make our final recommendation for amplification at your follow-up appointment in one week, where you will decide whether or not you would like to pursue a hearing aid fitting.

On average, it takes approximately 6 weeks for the brain to acclimatize to amplification, and much fine tuning and a battery of verification measures (sound field, speech in noise testing, and/or Real Ear measures) over the initial 6+ week period will be necessary to ensure optimum benefit with the hearing aids; therefore, please know that optimal benefit with amplification will not be achieved during your very first week with the aids. However, the initial week with hearing aids is an incredible learning experience that will demonstrate if and how amplification can improve your quality of life. You also have the ability to share with us what you liked and did not like about the hearing aids, so that a more perfect solution can be properly recommended. Our goal is to provide you with as much knowledge and comfort as possible when making a decision about what type of amplification will be most beneficial for you.

The cost of the hearing aid evaluation is \$150. Insurance plans typically do not cover this cost, so please be prepared for this payment on the day of your evaluation. This fee covers all services discussed above at both the initial 1 hour appointment, as well as the 30 minute follow-up appointment in one week.

Please feel free to call us at 302-645-7603 or e-mail us with questions prior to your appointment. Our hope is to make this process fun, informative, and stress-free.