



## Thinking of Hearing Aids? How to get hearing aids, and/or assistive listening devices

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*(Version française disponible)*

### 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 your need for a hearing aid or other listening aid. They will tell you about the options.
- You will receive information about the Assistive Device Program (ADP) which helps to co-pay for hearing aids.
- If a hearing aid is needed, the Audiologist will give you a prescription for a type of hearing aid suited to your needs.
- A list of hearing aid vendors can be provided. You can choose where to take your prescription.

### 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.**

We will charge a fee to provide these services at Hotel Dieu Hospital:

- Hearing aid evaluation, including first follow-up check: \$ 120.00
- Other hearing aid follow-up appointments: \$ 100.00\*

These fees can be claimed as a medical expense on your income tax return, or 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 2 or 3 years.

## What happens after my appointment?

- You can choose where you want to buy your hearing aids. Hearing aids range in price from approximately \$650 and up per ear after using the ADP grant.
- Take your prescription and other paperwork needed to the vendor of your choice.
- The vendor may take ear mold impressions to make sure the hearing aids will fit you properly, and they usually have to order the hearing aids.
- Your hearing aids will take about two weeks to come in. Once you are fitted with your hearing aids, the vendor will require payment.
- All hearing aids have a trial period to help you decide if they are meeting your listening needs.
- A follow-up appointment will be made for you to come back and check your hearing aids.

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

- The Audiologist will check your hearing aids and/or other listening aids to make sure they are working properly, and meet your needs.
- You and the Audiologist will decide together if the hearing aids are working for you.

## What if the hearing aids aren't working well for me?

- If the hearing aids are not meeting your needs, 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 is \$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 sometimes need an update or repair.
- Don't give up on the hearing aids! Call and set up an appointment for someone to help you adjust.