



HEARING AID PURCHASE INFORMATION



Why do I need hearing aids?

You have been tested by an audiologist and advised that you may benefit from the use of hearing aids. It has been determined that you are not able to hear sounds within the normal range needed to fully hear and understand speech in normal conversational situations.



Based on your audiogram and other test results hearing aids can be selected and fitted to amplify the sounds that your ears can no longer hear normally.

What do I need to do next?

1. Obtain medical clearance for the use of hearing aids from your physician.
2. Find a qualified dispensing audiologist to work with you in selecting, fitting and purchasing your hearing aids.

How much do hearing aids cost?

Hearing aid prices vary depending upon the style and the circuitry that would best accommodate your hearing loss. The conventional hearing aids are less expensive but they are limited in the features that are available. The digital devices are more expensive but they may offer features that would benefit you the most.

Discuss the financial aspects of your hearing aids with your dispensing audiologist.

Remember, you are purchasing your hearing aids to enhance your hearing and your enjoyment of day-to-day communication with your family and friends.



Can I purchase my hearing aids at Stanford?

Yes, you can purchase your hearing aids at Stanford. The Audiology Department at Stanford offers comprehensive services and will fit you with the proper hearing aid.

To schedule a hearing test and inquire about the wide varieties of hearing aids, call:

OTOLARYNGOLOGY

Head and Neck Surgery
Stanford University Medical Center
801 Welch Road
Stanford, CA 94305-5328
650-736-4351

What are the different kinds of hearing aids?

Hearing aids come in several different styles, including the completely-in-the-canal (CIC), mini canal (MC), in-the-canal (ITC), half shell (HS), in-the-ear (ITE), and behind-the-ear (BTE). Each style has its advantages and disadvantages.

Hearing aids also have several different types of circuitry or electronics that process the sound for your ear. There are “conventional” circuits, which are analog processing that may or may not be programmable. The “digital” circuits are programmable and offer many features that are custom fitted for your hearing loss.

Discuss the different styles and types of circuitry that would best benefit your hearing loss and suit your life style with your dispensing audiologist



FDA Regulations

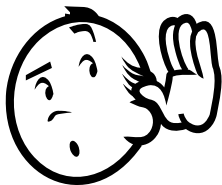
The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) enforces regulations that deal specifically with the manufacture and sale of hearing aids. According to the FDA, the following conditions must be met by all dispensers before selling a hearing aid:

Dispensers must obtain a written statement from the patient, signed by a licensed physician. The statement must be dated within the previous six months, state that the patient's ears have been medically evaluated, and that the patient is cleared for fitting with a hearing aid.

A patient age 18 years or older can sign a waiver for a medical examination, but dispensers must avoid encouraging the patient to waive the medical evaluation requirement. Dispensers also must advise the patient that waiving the examination is not in his best health interest.

Dispensers must advise patients who appear to have a hearing problem to consult promptly with a physician.

The FDA regulations also require that an instruction brochure be provided with the hearing aid that illustrates and describes its operation, use, and care. The brochure must list sources for repair and maintenance, and include a statement that the use of a hearing aid may be only part of a rehabilitative program.



Your hearing loss is more noticeable than a hearing aid!

Provided By:

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