



Bradford Teaching Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

Adult **A**udiology

Hearing Aid Assessment

Appointment Information



Why have I been sent an appointment?

You have been referred to the Audiology department to have your hearing assessed. This is because:

- a) Your GP or Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) Specialist feel you may benefit from a hearing aid **OR**
- b) You feel you are no longer benefiting from your existing hearing aid(s)

Who will I see at the appointment?

The hearing test will be carried out by an Audiologist who specialises in assessing and rehabilitating people with hearing problems.

Where will I have my appointment?

The Audiology department can provide various services in different centres across the Bradford area. Currently, we can assess your hearing at any one of the following centres:

- Bradford Royal Infirmary
- St Luke's Hospital
- Eccleshill Community Hospital
- Windhill Green Medical Centre
- Westwood Park Medical Centre
- Highfield Health Centre

Where possible, we will try to arrange an appointment at a centre most convenient to you.

What will happen at my appointment?

Your appointment will be with an Audiologist, who will ask you some questions regarding your hearing difficulties and related medical problems, such as ear infections. It is important to obtain details about the specific difficulties you are having as well as general medical history. Your goals and expectations from the appointment will be discussed with you and you will be asked to complete a questionnaire which asks what sort of situations you are struggling to hear in. An up to date hearing test will be performed. Sometimes, the Audiologist may request further tests to be carried out at a later date.

The “Action on Hearing Loss” booklet provides useful information about how the ear works and common ear problems. This booklet can be obtained from the Audiology department on request.

Please feel free to discuss the test with the Audiologist before it is carried out. A copy of the results can be provided upon request.

What will happen if I have a hearing loss?

The Audiologist will discuss the test results with you and if hearing aids are indicated, a personal treatment plan will be discussed. You will be given a choice of amplification options depending on the degree and type of hearing loss you have.

If you are already an existing hearing aid user, your current aids will be modified to match your hearing needs, or arrangements made to replace the aids with more suitable models.

The most common types of hearing aids fitted on the NHS are 'behind-the-ear' models.



What will happen if I have a hearing loss cont...

Once the types of aids have been agreed, an impression of your ear(s) will be made. This will be made into an ear-mould which holds the hearing aid in place.

The Audiologist will then discuss a care plan with you and arrangements will be made for a further appointment to fit your hearing aid(s).

What do hearing aids look like?

The most common types of hearing aids fitted on the NHS are behind-the-ear models which hook comfortably over the ear. You will be given the option to choose the model of hearing aid as well as the colour. Sound from the hearing aid is channelled into the ear canal via a tube. The type of tube and mould and overall shape of fit will depend on your hearing and the various options suitable for your hearing loss will be discussed with you in detail at the appointment.

How long will the appointment last?

The assessment procedure will take approximately one hour, depending on individual needs. The Audiologist will endeavour to see you at your allocated appointment time. Please allow sufficient time prior to your appointment for parking on the premises (which is limited).

Can I bring a family member, friend or carer?

Yes. It is advisable to bring a family member, friend or carer if possible, as your hearing problems and concerns affect those close to you. Attending the appointment would help them understand the process of hearing loss and its consequences in daily life for both you and those around you. However, as the tests are carried out in a quiet environment, it is advisable that alternative arrangements are made for child-care, where possible, prior to your appointment. You may bring up to 2 people with you to the appointment.

What should I do if I have any special personal or communication needs eg. mobility difficulties, visual impairment?

Please contact us prior to your appointment and we will do our best to arrange any specific requirements you may have.

What should I do if I need an interpreter?

Please contact the department prior to the appointment if you require an interpreter.

What should I do if I have any questions or concerns regarding the nature of the tests?

Please contact the department to discuss your concerns with an Audiologist.

Additional Information

Please be aware that Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust is a Teaching Hospital and as such, you may be seen by a student under the direct supervision of a qualified Audiologist. If you would prefer not to be seen by a student, please inform us in advance of your appointment.

Contact Details

If you have any questions about this information leaflet or your appointment, please contact the Audiology Department:

Adult Audiology Department

Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Bradford Royal Infirmary
Duckworth Lane
Bradford BD9 6RJ
West Yorkshire

Telephone: 01274 364071

Fax: 01274 382410

SMS Text: 07947 478944

We use Next Generation Text for people with hearing difficulties. This used to be called BT Text Relay
To contact us ring 18001 01274 364071

Email: audiology.department@bthft.nhs.uk

Trust Website: www.bradfordhospitals.nhs.uk

Audiology office opening hours:

Monday – Friday 8.30am – 5.00pm

Answerphone available for messages outside of opening hours.

Please enquire at the Audiology department if you wish to obtain this leaflet in an alternative language or format.

Smoking

Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust is a smoke-free organisation. You are not permitted to smoke in any of the hospital buildings or grounds, with the exception of the smoking shelters which are provided for visitors and patients only.

Author: Anna Skibinska on behalf of Bradford Teaching
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