

Direct Referral Hearing Assessment Appointment

Introduction

You have been referred by your GP for a Direct Referral Hearing Assessment appointment which aims to assess your hearing and to see if you would benefit from a hearing aid. This appointment may last up to an hour and is for adults usually over the age of 60 who have never had a hearing aid before and also patients of any age who have had a hearing aid before.

It is important that your ears are free from wax as this may affect the results of the hearing test. If you currently have a hearing aid, please bring your hearing aid, ear piece and brown book with you to this appointment.

What will happen during the appointment?

The audiologist will ask you questions about your ears (The Medical Questionnaire) and the situations you have difficulty hearing (Glasgow Questionnaire). The audiologist will examine your to make sure your ears are healthy and free from excessive wax. You will then have your hearing tested and the results will be discussed with you.

The Medical Questionnaire

The audiologist will ask you questions about how long you have noticed your hearing problem, if you have worked in or been exposed to noisy environments and if any of your immediate family have difficulties with their hearing. The audiologist will also ask if you experience Tinnitus (noises in your ears) and about any problems, procedures or operations you have had on your ears.

The Glasgow Questionnaire

The audiologist may ask you to rate the difficulties you have in a variety of listening situations. You may also be asked to rate how much your difficulty hearing in each situation annoys/worries/upsets you.

The Hearing Test

The Audiologist will place a set of head phones over your ears and ask you to press a button every time you hear a sound. These sounds will vary in loudness and pitch and the quietest sounds you can hear will be recorded for each ear individually.

The Results

After the hearing test the audiologist will be able to tell you how your hearing compares to normal hearing. If a hearing loss is identified the pitches affected and the degree of hearing loss will be discussed. If you have a hearing loss the audiologist will discuss the benefits that a hearing aid may provide. If a hearing aid is recommended and you would like to try one, an impression of your ear will be taken so that an individual ear piece can be made. This will involve putting a small sponge in your ear followed by some soft material which will take a few minutes to set. If you have excessive wax in your ears the audiologist will not be able to do the impression and you will be advised to have your ears cleared and then arrange a separate appointment for your impression to be taken.

What happens next?

Once the ear piece has been manufactured a letter will be sent to you with an appointment and information about your hearing aid fitting. You will be advised of the average waiting times for a hearing aid fitting at your hearing assessment appointment.