



Having a hearing aid fitted at the hospital

Information for patients from the Audiology Department

You have been given this leaflet as you agreed to have hearing aid(s) fitted after your hearing aid assessment.

Please refer to your appointment letter for where to come when you arrive at the hospital.

How do I prepare for my appointment?

Please read this information leaflet carefully. You should share the information with your partner and family as there may be information they need to know, especially if they are taking care of you following your appointment.

If you feel you may have too much wax or an ear infection, please make an appointment to see your GP at least two weeks before your hospital visit. We will not be able to fit your hearing aid(s) if you have an ear infection. The tests we perform can be affected or cancelled if you have a build-up of too much wax in your ears or have recently had an ear infection.

What will happen at my hearing aid fitting appointment?

The audiologist will look down your ear canal with an otoscope; this is a small hand-held device that illuminates your ear canal.

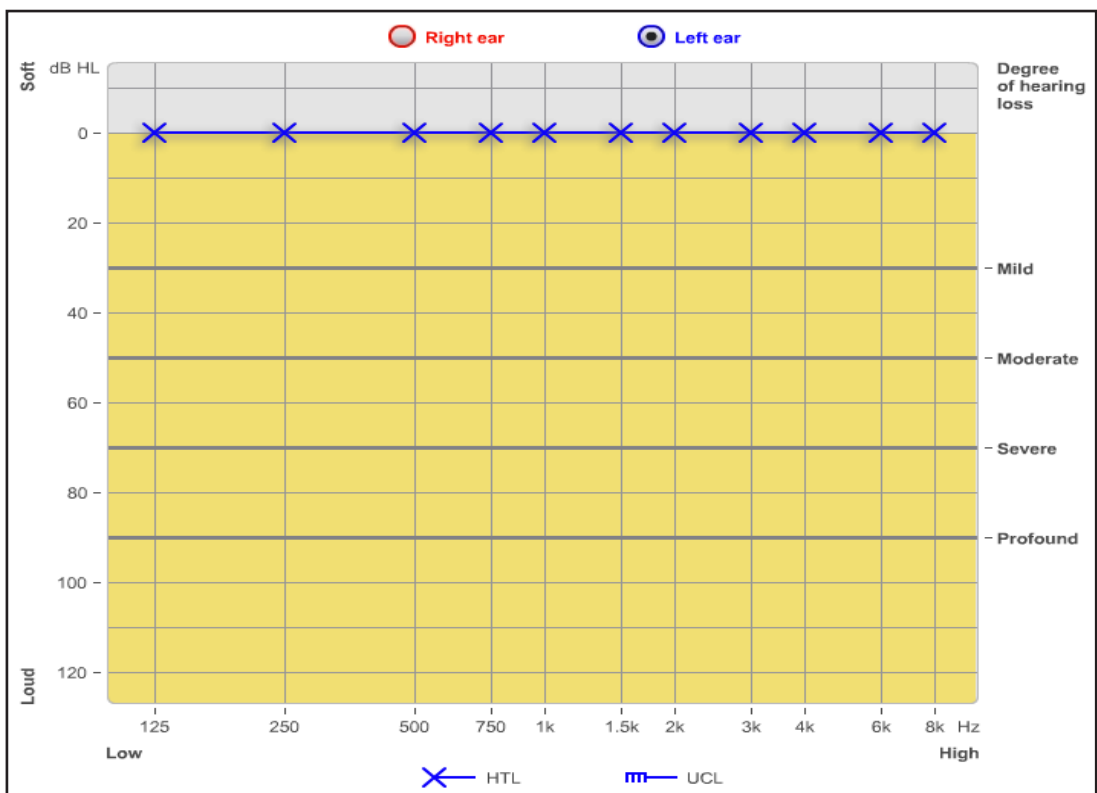
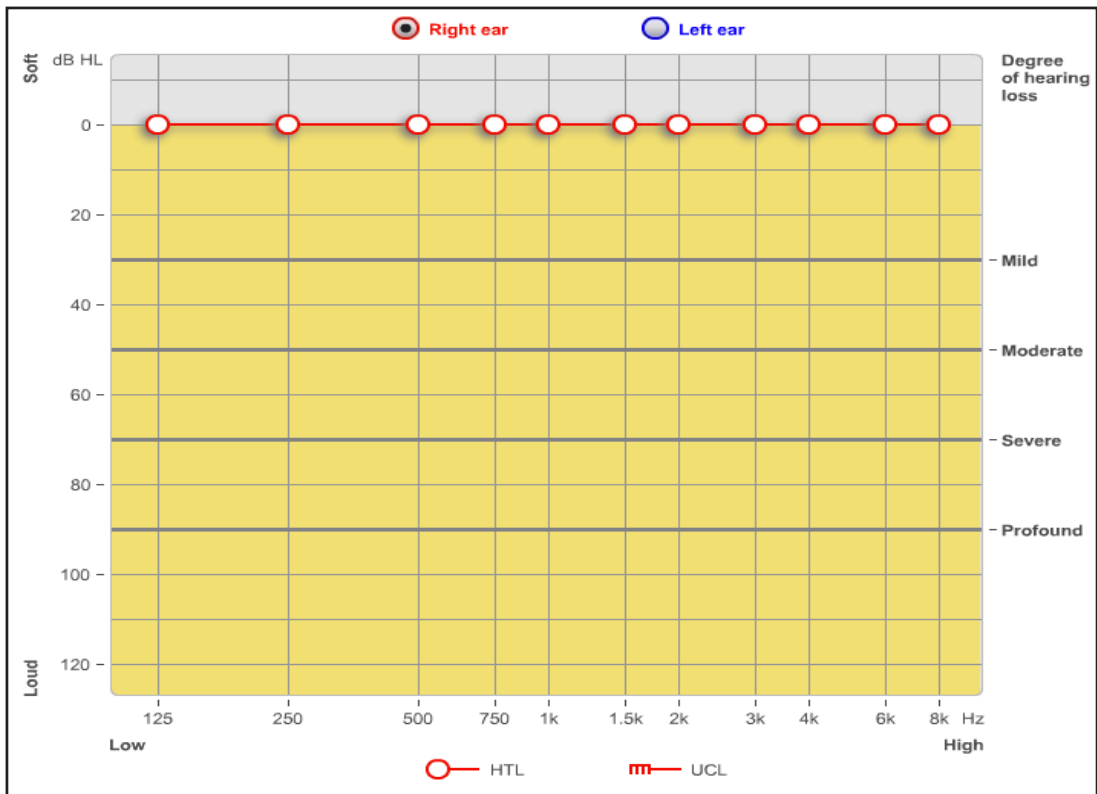


Patient having their ear examined with an otoscope



To set the hearing aid(s) specific to your hearing loss, a number of measurements, settings, and programming will be performed.

Graphs showing degree of hearing loss



Following the programming of your hearing aid, the audiologist will show you how to use and clean your hearing aid. You will also be shown how to insert and remove your hearing aid and how to and when to change the batteries. For more information, please ask a member of staff for a copy of the **Information about your hearing aid** leaflet or go to www.ekhufft.nhs.uk/audiology-leaflets/

The style and type of hearing aid(s) you are receiving would have been discussed at your previous appointment.



What should I expect from my hearing aid?

- Your hearing aid(s) will adjust automatically, according to the setting and environment that you are in.
- The hearing aid(s) will not restore hearing; however, they help with the hearing difficulties and challenges that you have been experiencing. You should be able to hear many everyday sounds that you may not otherwise be able to hear. You may also begin to hear sounds that you have forgotten, such as the rustling of your jacket or the hum of your fridge. Many of these forgotten sounds may be quite noticeable at first but they will soon become acceptable as you wear the hearing aid and adapt to it.
- Many new hearing aid users find that their own voices sound different but this will become acceptable over time.
- You will need to be patient and positive to go through the new changes. Improvements and benefits from hearing aid(s) is a gradual process. Most new hearing aid users will take between eight and 12 weeks to fully get used to this new way of hearing.
- If you have decided to have two hearing aids, it is important that you wear them as a pair, as they are set up to work together.

How long will my appointment take?

Your appointment will take approximately 30 to 45 minutes.

Will I have any further appointments?

You will need to return to the Audiology Department on average every three to six months to have your hearing aid checked. You will be provided with information about this. You will not be routinely offered a follow-up appointment. The Audiology Department has an open access policy, which means you can contact the department at any time to arrange further follow-up appointments and hearing assessments. You do not need another referral from your GP.

If you have any questions for the audiologist do not hesitate in asking them at your appointment.

What if I have any questions or concerns about my hearing aid(s)?

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us using the details below.

Contacting the Audiology Department

- Telephone: 01227 86 42 52 (lines are open 10am to 12 noon and 2pm to 4pm on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday)
- Email: EKH-TR.audiology@nhs.net

This leaflet has been produced with and for patients

If you would like this information in **another language, audio, Braille, Easy Read, or large print** please ask a member of staff. You can ask someone to contact us on your behalf.

Any complaints, comments, concerns, or compliments please speak to your doctor or nurse, or contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on 01227 78 31 45, or email ekh-tr.pals@nhs.net

Patients should not bring in large sums of money or valuables into hospital. Please note that East Kent Hospitals accepts no responsibility for the loss or damage to personal property, unless the property had been handed in to Trust staff for safe-keeping.

Further patient leaflets are available via the East Kent Hospitals web site www.ekhuft.nhs.uk/patientinformation