



# Having a hearing test at the hospital

## Information for patients from the Audiology Department

Due to possible hearing difficulties, your GP or Ear Nose and Throat (ENT) consultant have referred you for a hearing test at the hospital. The aim of the test is to determine the quietest sounds that you can hear at different intensities. If you have any questions, please speak to the audiologist at your appointment.

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

### How do I prepare for my appointment?

Your hearing test can be affected by recent exposure to loud noises, for example loud concert noises or heavy machinery drilling; it is recommended that you do not expose yourself to very loud noises for 48 hours before your appointment.

### What will happen at my hearing test?

Please refer to your appointment letter as to where you need to go for your appointment.

You will be taken into a treatment room. Your test will be performed in a soundproof room or booth in the Audiology Department.



**Soundproof room in the Audiology Department**



The audiologist will then examine both of your ears with an otoscope, which is a small hand-held device that illuminates your ear canal and ear drum. To perform this test, a small tip is placed just into the entrance of your ear canal.

**Patient having their ear examined with an otoscope**



The sounds will be heard through headphones and a headband that covers your ears and goes across your head.

You will be asked to press a hand-held button every time you hear a sound. You may be asked if you can hear the sounds even when there is continuous background noise.



**Patient wearing headphones**



**Patient wearing headband**



**Hand-held button**

A further test may be needed to check the health of your eardrum and middle ear; this is known as tympanometry. The test involves gently placing a small rubber tip just into the entrance of your ear canal and slowly changing the pressure in your ear. It feels like a gentle flow of air in your ear canal. The test takes a few seconds for each ear and is not uncomfortable. If you need to have this test, your audiologist will explain what will happen in more detail during your appointment.

### What happens after my assessment?

Your audiologist will explain your results to you before you leave hospital.

If you were referred for hearing aid(s) also then we'll carry that out after this session.

The result(s) will be sent to your ENT consultant or your GP, whoever referred you for your hearing test.



### How long will the appointment take?

Your appointment will take approximately 20 to 30 minutes.

### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.ekhufft.nhs.uk/patientinformation](http://www.ekhufft.nhs.uk/patientinformation)