



Moving from child to adult audiology services

Information for patients from the Audiology Department

What can I expect from my first appointment with the adult service?

Your first adult service appointment is very much tailored to the individual. It will include the following.

- A discussion about your current hearing needs and hearing aids.
- What your plans are for the next few years. For example, are you going to university or starting work? How might these plans change your hearing needs?
- Depending on the date of your last hearing test with child services, this first appointment may include a hearing test.

How often will my hearing be reviewed?

This is up to you. We can either:

- agree how often you would like to be reviewed, or
- you can contact us if you need help or an appointment.

Will I need to upgrade my child hearing aid?

The hearing aid(s) used by adult services may not be the same model of hearing aid that you are currently wearing. This means that at some point your aid will have to be exchanged for one that can be supported by the adult team in the long-term.

Can I have a coloured hearing aid(s)?

Yes, you can ask for a coloured hearing aid. If your hearing aid breaks down, we may offer you a replacement 'beige' coloured hearing aid, if your preferred coloured hearing aid is not in stock.

How often should I get my ear mould(s) checked?

It is still important that you get your moulds checked every 1 to 2 years. You may need a replacement made to maximise the sound quality of the aid and minimise feedback.

Coloured moulds are not automatically offered by the department. However, you can ask for both coloured moulds and glitter moulds.

Do I still need to replace my ear mould retubing?

Yes. Continue to replace your ear mould tubing every 4 to 6 months. This will minimise the distortion of sound caused by hardened tubing.

If you wish to retube your own moulds, the adult audiology service will provide you with tubing and advice. If not, they will be happy to retube the aids for you.

Where can I get batteries from?

You can collect batteries from your nearest main hospital, and some community-based centres. Please ask your audiologist for opening dates and times.

You can also email or telephone us and we will post batteries to you.

When are my ear fittings replaced?

We may need to replace the tube or moulds every 6 to 12 months, if you have:

- a BTE (behind the ear) with an ear mould, or
- a RIC (receiver in the canal) hearing aid with a moulded tip.

We will supply replacements, and you ask for more as needed.

When will I get the results of my hearing tests and report?

If you want to see your results or need further information, please ask your audiologist.

The audiogram below will help you get a general view about specific speech and environmental sounds.

- From top to bottom, you can see that sounds are getting louder.
- From left to right, the frequency of each sound is getting higher in pitch.

Further information

- **Colleges and universities**

Many colleges and universities will have their own accessibility advice and support team. This team will provide advice, information, and assistive learning and listening devices.

- **deafPLUS** (<https://www.deafplus.org/>)
- **Hearing Dogs for Deaf People** (<https://www.hearingdogs.org.uk>)
- **Hearing Link Services: part of Hearing Dogs for Deaf People** (<https://www.hearinglink.org/>)
- **Hi Kent: sound support for people living with hearing loss** (<https://hikent.org.uk/>)
- **Kent County Council: sensory support for children and young people**
(<https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/special-educational-needs-and-disabilities/types-of-special-educational-needs/sensory-services>)
- **Kent Deaf Children's Society** (<https://kdcs.org/>)
- **Relay UK** (<https://www.relayuk.bt.com/>): Helping people with hearing and speech difficulties communicate with anyone over the phone, using the national relay service.
- **Royal Association for Deaf (RAD) people** (<https://royaldeaf.org.uk/>)
- **Royal National Institute for Deaf People (RNID): supporting people who are deaf, have hearing loss or tinnitus** (<https://rnid.org.uk/>)
- **SENSE** (<https://www.sense.org.uk>)
- **Tinnitus UK** (<https://tinnitus.org.uk/>)

This leaflet has been produced with and for patients.

Please let us know:

- If you have any accessibility needs; this includes needing a hearing loop or wanting someone to come with you to your appointment.
- If you need an interpreter.
- If you need this information in another format (such as Braille, audio, large print or Easy Read).

You can let us know this by:

- Visiting the Trust web site (<https://www.ekhuft.nhs.uk/ais>).
- Calling the number at the top of your appointment letter.
- Adding this information to the Patient Portal (<https://pp.ekhuft.nhs.uk/login>).
- Telling a member of staff at your next appointment.

Any complaints, comments, concerns or compliments, please speak to a member of your healthcare team. Or contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service on 01227 783145 or email (ekh-tr.pals@nhs.net).

Patients should not bring 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 has been handed into Trust staff for safe-keeping.

Further patient information leaflets are available via the East Kent Hospitals' web site (<https://www.ekhuft.nhs.uk/patient-information>).

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