



Taking an impression (mould) of your ear

Information for patients from the Audiology Department

You need an impression (mould) taken of your ear, for either:

- your hearing aid(s)
- swim moulds, or
- filtered attenuator (noise reduction) ear plugs.

This leaflet explains how these moulds are taken. If you have any questions after reading the leaflet, please speak to the audiologist at your appointment.

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

How do I prepare for my appointment?

Please make an appointment to see your GP at least two weeks before your hospital visit if:

- you feel you may have too much wax in your ear, or
- an ear infection.

Your ear impression procedure may not be carried out if you have either.

What will happen at my ear impression appointment?

When you arrive at the hospital, you will be taken into a treatment room.

The audiologist will examine both of your ears with an otoscope. An otoscope is a small hand-held device that illuminates (throws light on) your ear canal and ear drum.

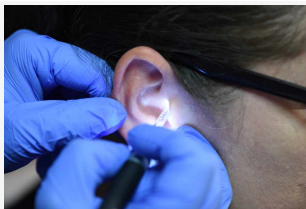
To perform this test, a small tip is placed just into the entrance of your ear canal.



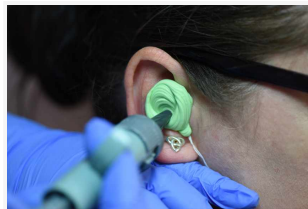
An audiologist examining a patients ear with an otoscope

Taking the impression involves inserting a soft foam stopper into your ear canal. Your ear is then filled-up with a smooth paste, which takes approximately five minutes to set. This is not uncomfortable.

The audiologist will then send the mould to the manufacturer, so your hearing aid can be made.



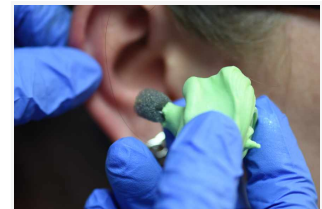
Step 1: inserting the soft foam stopper



Step 2: filling the ear with a smooth paste



Step 3: letting the mould set



Step 4: removing the mould from the ear

What happens after my ear impression is taken?

The Audiology Department will either:

- arrange for you to have a hearing aid fitting, or
- post the new mould(s) out to you.

How long will my appointment take?

Your appointment will take approximately 30 minutes.

Contact details

- **Audiology Department**
Telephone: 01227 864252 (lines are open 10am to 12 noon and 2pm to 4pm)
Email (EKH-TR.audiology@nhs.net)

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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