

Information about your hearing reassessment appointment

Gwent Audiology Service

Introduction

This information leaflet outlines the care that you will receive when you attend the Audiology Department for reassessment of your hearing.

We will assume your consent to have any of these procedures carried out when you attend the appointment. Please feel free to say during the appointment if you do not wish the tests to continue.

We actively encourage you to bring a friend or family member to all appointments. Please inform us using the contact details on your appointment letter, or when you arrive in the clinic if you would prefer to be seen on your own.

If you need any communication support, please contact the department with details of your preferred language and we will do our best to arrange this for you, you can contact us via phone, text, or email. The details on how to contact us are included with your appointment letter.

Your appointment will be with a suitably qualified Audiologist who has experience in taking an appropriate medical history in relation to your hearing, undertaking the clinical tests and devising your individual management plan.

During your appointment

The audiologist will ask questions to understand the problems that you are facing with your hearing. It is important that you explain the reasons why you have been struggling with your current hearing aid so that the Audiologist can tailor the appointment to your needs.

This information will help us decide how to help you make better use of your hearing aid and to discuss what you need from the hearing aid. The Audiologist will also find this information useful when deciding whether you require an upgrade to your current aid, and if a second aid should be fitted.

Hearing tests

The Audiologist will carry out a hearing test. You will be asked to listen to sounds through headphones placed over your ears and respond when you hear them. The Audiologist can then assess the quietest sounds which you are able to hear.

You may also need a further test to check the movement of your ear drum. If so, a small tip

will be placed in each ear in turn and a puff of air will be blown into your ear. This procedure should not cause any discomfort, but your ear will feel blocked while the test is carried out.

Occasionally the Audiologist may feel that a referral to an Ear, Nose and Throat Doctor would be useful and will explain to you why this is necessary.

Remember, we assume you are consenting to have these tests carried out when you attend the appointment. Please feel free to say during the appointment if you do not wish the tests to continue.

Results of these tests

Based on the information that you have supplied the Audiologist and the results of the hearing test; we will discuss how we will help you. This will then be written to form part of your Individual Management Plan. This plan will outline how the hearing aid(s) will help you in your daily life.

The Audiologist will check your current earpiece fitting and assess if it is still the most suitable type of earpiece fitting for the type of hearing loss you have. If not, one of the two types of earpieces will be offered:

- A made to measure earmould. This will involve the Audiologist placing a small sponge into your ear canal followed by some soft material which will set within a couple of minutes. We will then remove the impression material and sponge from your ear.

There should be no discomfort from this procedure, but your ear will feel blocked while the impression material is in the ear canal. We will use this impression to make an earmould which is individually fitted for your ear.

- "Open ear fitting" a slim tube with a soft earpiece that will be measured to fit correctly.

Next the Audiologist will discuss the following hearing aid options based on the hearing test results:

- a) If your hearing levels have changed, the Audiologist will book an appointment
- b) to upgrade your hearing aids to a suitable model. The hearing aids fitted in
- c) NHS clinics fit behind the ear and the Audiologist will show you the newer model.
- d) If your hearing stays unchanged, and your current hearing aid(s) are still available on the NHS, the Audiologist will book an appointment to fine tune your current hearing aid(s).
- e) If your hearing stays unchanged, and you are wearing hearing aid(s) that are
- f) no longer available on the NHS, the Audiologist will book an appointment to upgrade your hearing aids to a suitable model.

g) In some cases, no further appointments are required following the hearing reassessment.

Occasionally the Audiologist may feel that a referral to an Ear, Nose and Throat Doctor would be useful and will explain to you why this is necessary.

During the appointment, if there is anything that you are unsure about, please do not hesitate to ask.

**“This document is available in Welsh /
Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg”.**