

CENTRAL OHIO EAR, NOSE AND THROAT, INC.

**41 COMMERCE PARK DR.
WESTERVILLE, OH 43082**

**6860 PERIMETER DR. SUITE A
DUBLIN, OH 43016**

Hearing Instrument Information

Audiologist

When deciding to pursue/purchase hearing aids and/or assistive listening devices, one must consider the person with whom they will be working with in this process. Audiologists are health care professionals who evaluate, diagnose, treat, and rehabilitate disorders of the auditory and balance systems. An audiologist should at least have a Master's degree from an accredited college or university. They should be state licensed and many will be certified by the American Board of Audiology and/or the American Speech Language and Hearing Association. Remember that this will be the individual that you will be entrusting with your hearing health care needs and therefore you should feel comfortable with this individual and confident in their services.

Hearing Instrument Options

Description of a Hearing Aid:

Hearing aids are durable medical devices which amplify sounds to help impaired ears hear better. They do not correct hearing loss, as glasses do for vision, but increase the volume in a way to enable a person with hearing loss to use their remaining hearing in a more effective manner.

Components of hearing aids:

Hearing aids are comprised of a microphone, amplifier, receiver, and battery. The microphone gathers the sound. Different types of microphones pick up sounds from different areas in the room which may help the user hear better in difficult listening environments. The amplifier increases the sound for the impaired ear. The receiver sends the increased sound to the ear. The battery is the power source of the hearing aid.

Hearing Aid Technology:

Digital hearing aids are the most advanced type of hearing aid. Digital hearing aids allow the audiologist to program the device specifically to the patient's hearing loss. They include a variety of features which allow the hearing aids to be fine-tuned and programmed to provide optimal performance in different listening environments to meet the patient's needs. Digital hearing aids come in a variety of levels of technology. With digital hearing aids, just as with digital cameras, the quality of the sound "picture" is highly dependent on the level of technology. The technology appropriate for the patient's hearing loss depends on their communication needs and environments.

Factors to Consider

There are several factors that you should consider when purchasing a hearing instrument.

- Your lifestyle
- Your age
- Your hearing loss
- Your budget
- Your expectations

Hearing instruments are available in a variety of different styles and technologies. Finding one that is appropriate depends on the patient's listening needs, individual preference and the severity of the hearing loss.

Our Program

Central Ohio Ear, Nose, and Throat, Inc. strives to provide the best hearing health care for our patients. Because of our commitment to our patients we offer digital amplification options from four different manufactures: GN Resound, Oticon, Unitron, and Phonak. Our amplification pricing ranges from \$1000 for our basic digital hearing instrument up to \$2500 for our most advanced instruments. All patients are given a 45 day trial period. Our hearing instruments vary in warranty from a standard 1 year loss and damage warranty to a 3 year loss and damage warranty, which encompasses all repairs (both in-house and by the manufacturer) and a one-time loss or damage claim. All office visits strictly pertaining to the hearing instruments (purchased at our facility) including adjustments and cleanings are at no charge to the patient throughout the life of the hearing instrument. We do offer fitting and service packages for patient's who have purchased hearing aids at another facility, please ask the audiologist regarding further details.

Hearing Instrument Evaluation/Fitting Process:

At Central Ohio Ear Nose and Throat, Inc. we begin the hearing instrument/fitting process with a comprehensive hearing evaluation. This evaluation includes pure tone air and bone conduction testing, speech testing and immittance testing. Based on the hearing evaluation results, appropriate recommendations will be made at that time. If amplification is recommended, a hearing aid consultation will be scheduled for the patient with the audiologist. An hour is set aside for every hearing aid consultation allowing every patient ample time with the audiologist to discuss different amplification options and to answer any questions regarding hearing instrumentation. Once a decision has been reached regarding amplification the patient will be scheduled for a hearing aid fitting appointment. This appointment will consist of the initial programming of the hearing

instrument(s), learning how to care and maintain the instruments and answering any questions the patient might have regarding the instruments.

Once the hearing devices are fit the patient will be scheduled for a 2 week re-check appointment and a 4 week re-check appointment. During these two appointments the hearing aids will be “fine tuned” and any remaining questions will be answered. At the conclusion of the 4 week re-check appointment audiological testing will be performed with the patient wearing the hearing aids in the sound booth. A visual comparison of test results will be made between the initial hearing test and the “aided” test, allowing for the patient to visibly see the marked improvement from the hearing instruments. Following the patient’s last appointment of their trial period it will be recommended that the patient be seen every 6 months for routine hearing aid cleanings and adjustments.

Payment Information:

At the conclusion of the hearing aid fitting appointment half of the total cost of the hearing instrument(s) will be due. At the conclusion of the 45 day trial period the balance remaining on the hearing instrument(s) will be due. Central Ohio Ear Nose and Throat Inc. accepts Master Card, Visa, Discover, and American Express credit cards along with cash and check options.

Return Policy:

At the conclusion of the trial period the patient has the legal right to return the hearing aid(s). The cost of the hearing aid(s) is refundable – less \$100 per hearing aid and shipping charges – provided the original serial numbered hearing aid(s) is/are returned in good working order within 45 days from the fitting date. The cost of earmold(s) (if applicable) is not refundable.

Other Services:

A variety of custom molded ear pieces are also available from our facility including custom made swim plugs, industrial ear plugs, musician plugs, aviation plugs, hunter/shooter plugs, custom molds for iPod buds, and sleep plugs. In addition, non-custom swim plugs are available along with EarPlanes, plugs which help keep pressure equalized in your ears while flying. We offer a wide variety of Assisted Listening Devices (ALDs) which assist in the patient’s listening and communication needs. ALDs include TV Ears, Pocket Talkers (personal amplifier), personal FM systems, amplified telephones, in addition to various alarming systems for the hearing impaired.