



WHEN SHOULD MY HEARING BE CHECKED?

Your hearing should be checked by a clinical audiologist if you:

- Hear a buzzing, ringing, chirping or roaring in your ear(s).
- Receive complaints that you have the radio or television volume turned up too loud.
- Have difficulty understanding children's voices.
- Find that people often seem to mumble or speak unclearly.
- Have difficulty understanding people in noisy environments.
- Often ask others to repeat themselves or misunderstand conversations.
- Find it a strain to understand a conversation.
- Notice environmental sounds seem too loud.

**For more information, call
800-437-5430**

Barnes-Jewish West County Hospital
1044 N. Mason Road, Suite L20
St. Louis, MO 63141
Appointments: 314-362-7509

Center for Advanced Medicine
4921 Parkview Place, Suite 11A
St. Louis, MO 63110
Appointments: 314-362-7489

Central Institute for the Deaf
4560 Clayton Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63110
Appointments: 314-747-7100

Toll free, all locations: 800-437-5430



ADULT AUDIOLOGY

Your Options for Hearing Devices



HEARING.WUSTL.EDU

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY PHYSICIANS

THE WORLD OF HEARING AIDS AND AMPLIFICATION IS CHANGING.

According to the National Institutes of Health, about 28.8 million people in the U.S. could benefit from using hearing aids. However, only 15-30% of those with hearing loss opt for hearing aids. One reason for this is thought to be the cost.

With today's technology, there is no reason to be left out of the conversation. Hearing aids and personal sound amplifiers can now be purchased online, in retail stores and in pharmacies at several different price points.

Options available for sound amplification include personal sound amplifiers (PSAPs), over-the-counter (OTC) devices and hearing aids. So how do you decide on the best instrument for your hearing loss?

WHAT ARE MY OPTIONS FOR HEARING DEVICES?

Hearing Aids are a regulated medical device that must be prescribed by a licensed hearing professional. Washington University offers the full array of hearing aids, along with testing, real-ear measures and fittings customized specifically to each person's type and degree of loss. Sophisticated hearing aids can be expensive, and our recommendations come without any bias for a manufacturer or device type – Washington University audiologists don't get commissions on sales. With this bundled package, patients get free after-fit care, adjustments and replacement parts during the warranty of the device.

Basic, or Entry-Level Hearing Aids are offered by Washington University, but at a lower cost. Basic hearing aids offer less sophisticated options than some of the more advanced alternatives. Even with fewer options, Washington University audiologists can make basic hearing aids accommodate most patients' hearing loss, but there is a charge for each fitting and service visit.



Source: National Institutes of Health

Personal Sound Amplification Products

(PSAPs) are marketed for hearing enhancement and are not intended to be used for hearing loss. Washington University does not offer these devices. They can be purchased online or over-the-counter without a hearing evaluation or doctor's prescription.

Over-the-Counter (OTC) hearing devices are a new category created by the FDA, and will be available in the year 2020. This new class of self-programmable devices will be marketed for individuals with mild to moderately-severe hearing loss. They will be available at retailers without a prescription. While these devices may improve access to hearing devices for some people, because they can be purchased without the assistance of a licensed audiologist, they also carry the risk of being used improperly.



WHY CHOOSE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY?

Service quality is a priority with our staff of professionals and is exhibited in everything from scheduling to follow-up care.

We offer:

- Recommendations for hearing aids based on your custom needs. All types and levels of technology will be addressed. If you choose a PSAP or OTC device, verification of these devices and follow-up care will be offered with a fee for the services applied.
- Selection of many manufacturers' hearing aids in a variety of price ranges (our staff does not receive commissions).
- Free follow-up visits for the duration of a non-basic hearing aid warranty (2-3 years) for the best possible hearing aid performance.
- Free hearing aid reprogramming and cleaning for the duration of the warranty (2-3 years) of a non-basic device.
- Free orientation class on the care, use and expectations of hearing aids.

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