

## **HEARING AIDS**

Untreated hearing loss can cause embarrassment, social stress, tension, and fatigue. This is true not only for the person with the hearing loss but also for family members, friends, and colleagues.

Approximately 5% to 10% of adult hearing problems are treatable medically or by surgery. For most adults with hearing loss, hearing aids are the best option for treatment. The audiologist and physician work together to decide the best treatment options.

All hearing aids have a microphone, processors, receiver, and battery compartment. Sound enters the microphone, is amplified and shaped by the processor, converted back into sound by the receiver, and directed out to the ear canal.

Hearing aids differ in design, size, the amount of amplification, ease of handling, volume control, and availability of special features.

If you have hearing loss in both ears, the audiologist may recommend that you use two hearing aids. Wearing two hearing aids:

- Helps in localizing the direction of sounds
- Improves listening in noisy situations
- Provides better overall hearing.

The best hearing aid for you depends on your listening needs, type of hearing loss, and lifestyle. Your audiologist will advise you on which of the basic hearing aid styles and features best meet your needs and their related costs.

**It can take several weeks or months to become adjusted to listening with your hearing aids.** With hearing aids, you will hear some sounds you have not heard previously or sounds you have not heard in a long time. At first, background noise may seem loud and distracting. Your own voice may sound louder.

**Hearing aids do not restore hearing to “normal.”** Hearing aids do not “cure” your hearing loss, but they provide benefit and improvement in communication. They can improve your hearing and listening abilities, and they can substantially improve your quality of life.

Our audiologists strive to provide excellent care to patients with hearing aids in our Frisco and Plano offices.

By working with an audiologist, you are purchasing professional care and services to ensure that the correct hearing aid is selected and that proper programming of the hearing aid is completed. Other professional care includes:

- Instruction in how to properly use and maintain the hearing aid
- Follow-up care and support
- Repair services
- Rehabilitation services.

A **thirty day trial period** allows the hearing aid purchaser to use and adjust to the hearing aid(s). It is also a time to make adjustments or modifications to the hearing aid fit. The purchaser may cancel the Hearing Aid Purchase Agreement at any time, for any reason during the Thirty Day Trial Period and return the hearing aid(s) in undamaged condition and good working order, less a **fitting fee of \$175.00 per aid**. This is the fee for the services rendered and the temporary rental of the hearing aid(s) and for supplies used.

Some private health care plans cover the costs of audiology tests, a hearing aid evaluation, and even partial or full coverage of a hearing aid. You can check with your health insurance company or your employer's benefits manager to find out. **Progressive Hearing Health does NOT have contracts with any insurance companies and therefore cannot file for benefits and is considered out of network.** If your insurance policy has hearing aid benefits you would like to use, Progressive Hearing Health would be happy to give you the codes needed so you can file your claim.

**At this time, Medicare does not cover hearing aids.**

Information adapted from the American Speech-Language Hearing Association at [www.asha.org](http://www.asha.org).