

QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR HEARING HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL

*Your communication needs are very important.
It is essential that your decisions are based on adequate information.*

About my hearing:

- What type of hearing loss do I have?
- Can it be corrected by a medical or surgical procedure?
- What tests are involved - and what is their purpose?
- Will you explain the audiogram result? (It is a good idea to ask for a copy for your own records)
- My family / friends and I are having difficulties with communication – can you give me some information regarding helpful strategies to improve this?

About hearing aids:

- Will a hearing aid be helpful for me?
- I understand that there are different styles of aids – which would be best for me – and why?
 - completely in the canal (CIC)
 - in the canal (ITC)
 - in the ear (ITE)
 - behind the ear (BTE)
 - is the 'open fitting' type suitable for me?
- What does it do?
- I also have annoying tinnitus, and have heard that hearing aids may be helpful. In what way can they help?
- I have heard that some hearing aids can also incorporate a sound generator, for people with tinnitus. What does this do, and how might it help me to better cope with the tinnitus?
- Some hearing aids have directional microphones – what does this do? Would it benefit me?
- I have heard that some aids have a T (telecoil) switch – what does this do? Would it be of benefit for me?
- I am eligible for the Government scheme for a free aid. However, I have heard that there is a 'top up' scheme – would the added features justify the price difference for me?
- How often should I have my hearing retested?
- How should I care for my hearing aid?
- How long does it take to learn to manage an aid and get used to the different sound levels?

When you are not eligible for the Government scheme free aid:

- Some hearing aids are very expensive – what particular benefits can I expect from the more expensive aids?
- Is there a trial period available? How long is this?
- How long is the warranty period?

Continued overleaf

