



Portsmouth Hospitals
University
NHS Trust

How should I care for my hearing aid? Earmould

Audiology Department

Specialist Support

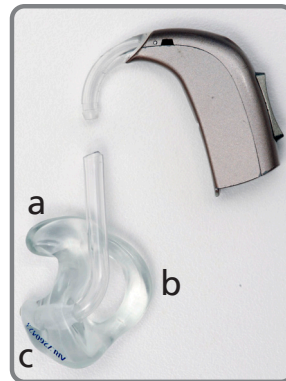
This leaflet can be made available in another language, large print or another format. Please speak to a member of staff who can advise you

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How do I insert my hearing aid?



1 Hold the curved part **(b)** of the mould between your thumb and forefinger with top point **(a)** up



2 Keeping your hand straight, move the bottom point **(c)** of the mould towards your ear canal and the top point **(a)** underneath the ridge of skin on your ear



3 Slide your thumb out from under the earmould and press the back curve **(b)** into the bowl of the ear. You may find it helpful to pull your earlobe outwards with your other hand



4 Tuck the hearing aid behind your ear. This is how a correctly fitted hearing aid should look





Is my hearing aid sensitive to moisture?

- Although the hearing aids are generally very robust, they tend to be sensitive to moisture.
- Please keep your hearing aid dry where possible, remembering to take it out when swimming, bathing, or showering
- If you get caught out in heavy rain then it's best to put your aid in its case until you are out of the rain.
- If condensation is a frequent problem then low condensation tubing can be used to reduce this. Please contact the Audiology department if you would like to change to low condensation tubing. Condensation in the tubing can cause the hearing aid to sound intermittent.
- A hearing aid puffer or drying pot can be purchased from Connevens at: www.connevens.co.uk or telephone 01737 247571

How do I comment on my treatment?

We aim to provide the best possible service and if you have a question or a concern about your treatment then the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) are always happy to try to help you get answers you need. You can contact PALS on

0800 917 6039 or

E-mail: PHT.pals@porthosp.nhs.uk who will contact the department concerned on your behalf.

Data Protection Legislation – Privacy Notice

Further information on how we look after your personal information can be found on the Trust Information Governance webpage at www.porthosp.nhs.uk - or alternatively, please speak to a member of staff.





How do I keep my hearing aid clean?

- The hearing aid with earmould should be removed from the ear and wiped with a wet-wipe at the end of each day.
- If the earmould requires a more thorough clean, it can be detached from the hearing aid by taking hold of the soft tubing and pulling this apart from the plastic elbow. If the tubing has hardened around the plastic elbow and they will not come apart the tubing will need to be replaced. Please contact the Audiology department so the tubing can be changed or if you are able to then retube the earmould yourself.
- Wash the earmould (with the tubing still in place) in warm soapy water. Use a pin to remove any remaining wax from the holes in the earmould. If you remove the tube from the earmould you will not be able to reinsert the same piece of



tubing. The earmould will need to be retubed with a fresh piece of tubing instead.

- If you have a puffer then use this to remove water in the tube and/or leave the earmould in a warm place to dry, preferably overnight.
- Reattach the ear mould to the aid by gently pushing the plastic elbow and the tube back together.
- Make sure that the earmould bends in the right direction, as shown





When do I need to change the battery?

- Batteries usually last for approximately 7 - 14 days but this depends on the type and strength of your hearing aid.
- The hearing aid will emit a warning beep before the battery runs out completely.
- Change the battery as soon as you can after you hear the warning beep.

What should I do with the aid when I am not wearing it?

- The hearing aid should be switched off by opening the battery compartment and put in its case away from children and pets. This is very important as the batteries can be dangerous if swallowed. A tamper-proof drawer can be fitted if there is a risk of the batteries being swallowed whilst this in use. This means a special tool will need to be used to open the battery compartment. Please contact the Audiology department to have this fitted.

How often should the tubes be replaced?

- Over time the tubing shrinks and becomes brittle. This then affects the sound delivered from the hearing aid. The tubing should be changed every 4 - 6 months and will likely need doing more frequently if your earmould is made of a softer material.
- This can be changed by the Audiology team. You will need to organise this yourself and can be done either by using our drop-in and postal services, or by contacting the department for a face to face appointment.
- If you would like to learn how to change the tubes yourself at home, please book a face to face appointment.





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Consent - What does this mean?

Before any doctor, nurse or therapist examines or treats you they **must** have your **consent** or permission.

Consent ranges from allowing a doctor to take your blood pressure (rolling up your sleeve and presenting your arm is implied consent) to signing a form saying you agree to the treatment or operation.

It is important **before** giving permission that you understand what you are agreeing to. **If you do not understand – ask.** More detailed information is available on request.

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