

Looking after your hearing aid and earmould

Hearing Services Department

Information for Patients and Carers

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Care and maintenance of your earmould

It is very important to clean your earmould and change the tubing regularly, otherwise the quality of sound from your hearing aid will be poor. If the tube becomes blocked your hearing aid may appear to stop working altogether.

Cleaning - wipe the earmould daily with a tissue or a moist wipe to keep it clean. The earmould can be cleaned more thoroughly in warm soapy water:

- Pull the aid and the soft tube apart as shown.
- **Soak both the mould and the tube together for about 15 minutes in warm soapy water.**
- Rinse thoroughly under the tap, allowing the water to run through the tube.
- Dry the outside of the earmould and tube.
- Shake firmly to remove any water from inside the tube.
- You may choose to leave it to dry overnight.
- This should be repeated regularly.



Retubing your earmould - you should replace the plastic tube inside your earmould **every 6 to 9 months**, or when the colour of the tube changes or it becomes hard. This will help to maintain good sound quality and comfort.

If the tube becomes too hard it can snap and get stuck inside the earmould. If this happens you will not be able to wear the hearing aid until the broken tube is removed and replaced.

**Health information and support is available at www.nhs.uk
or call 111 for non-emergency medical advice**

Visit www.leicestershospitals.nhs.uk for maps and information about visiting Leicester's Hospitals

To give feedback about this information sheet, contact InformationForPatients@uhl-tr.nhs.uk

How to retube your earmould

Please follow these instructions on how to replace the tube. If you find it difficult to handle small objects or have eyesight problems and cannot replace the tube yourself, please ask a friend or relative to help. **You can also book a repair appointment and we will do it for you.**

Replacement tubing is available from all of our battery collection centers.



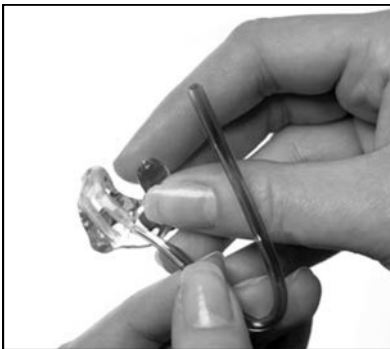
Hold the tube in one hand and the hearing aid hook in the other, twist and pull firmly apart.



Pull the old piece of tubing out of the mould. **Keep this piece of tubing.**



Cut the new piece of tubing to a long thin point.



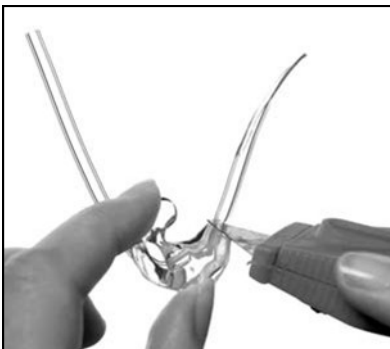
Insert the pointed end into the earmould as shown. If there are two holes in the mould you should use the top one.



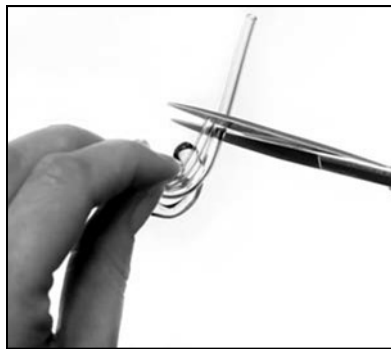
Pull the tubing through until it reaches the bend.



Cut off the point 'flush' with the earmould using a sharp pair of scissors.



Using a sharp knife can create a closer cut. Place the mould down on a hard surface if using a knife.



Use the old piece of tube as a measure for the new piece.



Push the end the hearing aid hook firmly inside the new piece of tubing.

If the hearing aid is loose over the top of the ear, try shortening the tube a little as the old piece may have stretched.

If the old piece of tube has been lost or damaged, place the earmould in the ear and the hearing aid behind. Ask someone to mark with a pen where the two meet. Remember to allow a little extra as the tube pushes over the end of the hearing aid.

The earmould should point **away** from the hearing aid as shown in this picture.



Troubleshooting guide for hearing aids with earmoulds

No sound:

- Replace the battery. If possible use one from a new packet.
- Do not remove the tab until the battery is needed.
- Separate the hearing aid from the earmould as though for cleaning. Switch the aid on and close your hand over the aid. If the aid now whistles this would suggest that there is a blockage in the earmould. Wash the earmould and tube together in warm soapy water.
- If the hearing aid still does not work you will need to make an appointment to have the hearing aid repaired.

Poor sound quality:

- Have your ears checked by your GP for wax or infection.
- Check your earmould for moisture, or blockages of wax or debris. If needed, remove the earmould and wash it in warm soapy water.
- Check the tube for bends or breaks. Replace if needed.
- Otherwise make an appointment at one of our repair clinics.

My hearing aid whistles when it is in my ear:

- Have your ears checked by your GP for wax or infection.
- Check that your earmould is inserted correctly. The tube should sit 'flush' against the side of your ear. Ask your audiologist for advice if you have difficulty fitting your earmould.
- Check to see whether the earmould is loose or damaged. Earmoulds need replacing from time to time due to 'wear and tear'. Also over a period of time your ear can change shape.
- Please note that it is perfectly normal for a hearing aid to whistle when it is not in the ear, or when you cover your ear and hearing aid with your hand.

How to get your hearing aid repaired or serviced

Repairs and servicing can be done either by post, attending one of our drop-in clinics (there is only 1 locations for this) or making an appointment to attend one of our repair clinics.

You may be asked to make a repair appointment in order to assess any further treatment needed, or to discuss any other issues that you may have about your hearing aid(s).

Repairing your hearing aid by post:

Please send your hearing aid(s) with your yellow appointment card, and a self-addressed stamped envelope, to the address shown.

You will need **at least 2 large letter stamps** due to the thickness and weight of the envelope. If you are not sure, please check with your local post office for exact postage costs.

We will post your hearing aid(s) back to you in the self-addressed stamped envelope that you provide.

**Hearing Services Department
Leicester Royal Infirmary
Leicester
LE1 5WW**

Attending a drop-in clinic for repair or servicing:

If you need your hearing aid repaired or serviced, or need a new mould, we offer a walk-in repair clinic where you can be seen without an appointment.. We only offer this service at the location below:

Belgrave

25 Buller Road
Leicester LE4 5GB

Every other Wednesday, 9:30am to 12pm - please check at the site for the next session.

Making an appointment for repair or servicing:

You can make an appointment to have your hearing aid(s) serviced or repaired at your convenience. The Hearing Services Department has a dedicated telephone line in order to book repair appointments at the named clinics on the next page; please state which clinic you would like to attend.

The telephone line is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday - 9am to 12pm and 1.30pm to 5pm.

Telephone: 0116 258 5120

Text (only): 0772 918 8421

Email: hearingservices@uhl-tr.nhs.uk

Clinic locations for repairs and servicing - by appointment only:

Braunstone Health & Social Care Centre

33 Hockley Farm Road
Leicester LE3 1HN

Coalville Health Centre

1 Market Street
Coalville LE67 3DX

Glenfield Hospital

Groby Road
Leicester LE3 9QP

Hinckley Hospital – Outpatient’s Department

Mount Rd (entrance on Hill Street)
Hinckley LE10 1AG

Hynca Lodge

St Francis Close (just off Tudor Road)
Hinckley LE10 0EW

Leicester Royal Infirmary

Hearing Services Department
Leicester Royal Infirmary
Leicester LE1 5WW

Loughborough Hospital

Epinal Way (entrance 2)
Loughborough LE11 5YJ

Melton St Mary’s Hospital

Thorpe Road
Melton Mowbray
Leicestershire LE13 1SJ

Rutland Memorial Hospital

Cold Overton Road
Oakham LE15 6NT

Field Street Surgery

18 Field street
Shepshed LE12 9AL

St Luke’s Treatment Centre

33 Leicester Road
Market Harborough LE16 7BN

Syston Health Centre

Melton Road
Syston
Leicestershire LE7 2EQ

Two Steeples Medical Centre

Abington Close
Wigston
Leicestershire LE18 2EW

Using your hearing aid with the telephone

Hold the receiver to the hearing aid as shown and not to your ear, as sound cannot pass easily through your earmould.



Speakerphone:

You may find it easier to use a telephone with speakerphone.

You can listen through a speaker on the telephone, without having to lift the receiver to the ear. This can be helpful if you have two hearing aids.

Volume control:

Whilst having the volume louder can be helpful, often the problem is that sounds are not clear rather than that they are not loud enough. Therefore it is still important to use your hearing aid(s) for clearer sound even if you can turn the volume up on your telephone.

Mobile phones:

Many mobile phone manufacturers produce portable loop systems for use with your hearing aid(s). Contact any mobile phone shop or search the internet for further details. This can be particularly useful in noisy situations or when used as a 'hands free' accessory.

Streaming/ Bluetooth devices:

Some NHS hearing aids are compatible with Bluetooth streaming devices. A streamer is usually worn around the neck, and can connect your hearing aid(s) wirelessly to a variety of Bluetooth compatible devices, such as mobile phones, computers or tablets. Please ask your audiologist for further information. Please note that streamers are not provided by the NHS.

Loop systems:

You can use your hearing aid(s) on the loop program with the telephone. This can be helpful when listening in a noisy environment, or in a public place.

Loop systems are also found in public buildings and are designed to assist hearing aid users in difficult listening situations, such as theatres, cinemas and churches, where the speaker may be some distance away from you.

You can only use the loop setting when you see this sign:

Most NHS hearing aids are able to switch to a 'loop program'. You will need to refer to your hearing aid instruction leaflet to make sure that this has been activated by your audiologist.

The loop program is usually activated by pressing a small button on the back of your digital hearing aid. Personal loop systems can also be used with mobile phones, televisions and in the workplace.



Loss or damage to your NHS hearing aid

Any NHS hearing aid is issued on a permanent loan basis and should be returned if no longer needed. If you lose or damage your NHS aid you will be charged an administration fee of £70 when it is replaced. Some patients may not need to pay charges for medical reasons.

Further information

Please ask your audiologist for further details about assistive listening devices (ALDs), such as vibrating smoke alarms and phone flashers, or contact on the numbers below:

- **Services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing People:**

For people living in the county of Leicestershire and Rutland.

Telephone: 0116 305 4286

<https://firstcontactplus.org.uk>

- **Care Access Management Service:**

For people living in the city of Leicester.

Telephone: 0116 454100 (ask for the duty desk) / <https://adultsocialcare.leicester.gov.uk>

- **Action Deafness (AD):**

Provides interpreting services, and advice and guidance for people who are deaf and hard of hearing.

1st Floor, Peepul Centre, Orchardson Avenue, Leicester, LE4 6DP

Telephone: 0844 593 8440 / Text: 07817 260140 / www.actiondeafness.org.uk

Other useful contacts:

- **Action on Hearing Loss:**

Telephone: 0808 808 0123 (freephone) / SMS: 0780 000 0360

Email: information@hearingloss.org.uk

- **The British Tinnitus Association:**

Freephone: 0800 018 0527 / Email: helpline@tinnitus.org.uk / www.tinnitus.org.uk

- **SENSE:**

A national charity that supports and campaigns for people who are 'deafblind'

Telephone: 0300 3309250 / Textphone: 0300 330 9252 / www.sense.org.uk

