

## State of the art hearing aids

### Hearing correction in the digital age

As well as ensuring that the hearing instruments you have chosen are prescribed to fit comfortably, the Hearing Aid Audiologist will digitally programme them to ensure maximum assistance with your hearing loss. If the Hearing Aid Audiologist makes a recommendation, written particulars are provided and fully explained. Even after the hearing aid system has been ordered and fitted, there are a number of opportunities for the consumer to change their mind at little or no cost.

### Skills and professional training

BSHAA members must comply with the Society's code of conduct and have to pass comprehensive examinations and undergo extensive supervised training before they are allowed legally to dispense hearing instruments in the UK. Those who are members of BSHAA also follow our programme of Continuing Professional Development. They may use the designation of MSHAA and, if they attain the necessary standards to become a Fellow of the Society, FSHAA. It is recommended that anyone seeking assistance and information about hearing and hearing care should look for these initials after the name of a Hearing Aid Audiologist.



## Care and rehabilitation

### What sort of instrument?



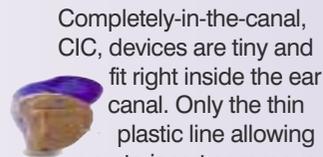
Behind-the-ear, BTE, instruments sit behind the ear. A clear plastic tube directs sound via an earmould inside the ear canal.



Receiver-in-the-canal, RIC, has the receiver directly in the ear canal and is a popular style particularly for first time users.



In-the-ear, ITE, instruments are designed with all the components inside a custom made shell that fits in the outer portion of the ear.



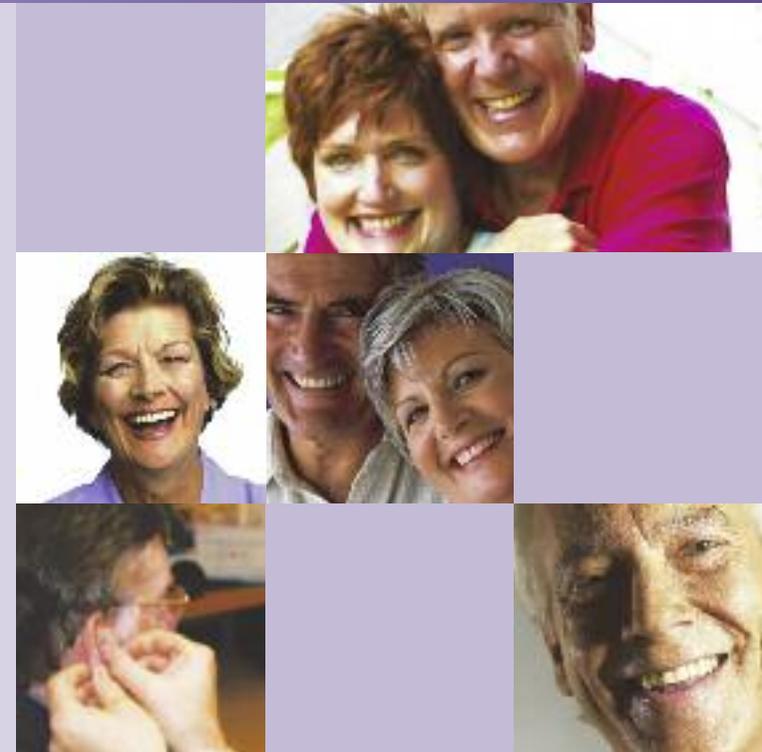
Completely-in-the-canal, CIC, devices are tiny and fit right inside the ear canal. Only the thin plastic line allowing you to insert or remove the instrument is visible.



In-the-canal, ITC, devices fit into the ear canal with only a small portion visible.



Open ear instruments have an extra small casing with a soft, flexible earpiece that sits in the ear canal. Suitable for mild to moderate loss.



The right **Choice** for  
Professional  
hearing care



**Assuring high quality hearing care**  
British Society of Hearing Aid Audiologists  
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Until you realise you are not hearing as well as you used to, it is unlikely you will have ever thought of investigating how you get hearing care. This leaflet explains how to go about having your hearing tested and hearing aids prescribed and fitted. It has been produced by the British Society of Hearing Aid Audiologists which is the professional body of the 1,200 or so practitioners who offer independent hearing care.

BSHAA assures the highest standards in quality care and clinical governance by those engaged in hearing aid audiology through the development, application, promotion and compliance with excellent clinical, commercial and educational practice.



## The British Society of Hearing Aid Audiologists High quality hearing care wherever you are

### About hearing and hearing loss

Anyone can suffer from hearing loss, indeed it is estimated that it affects nearly 9 million people in the UK. More than half of people over the age of 60 are deaf or hard of hearing, the result of exposure to loud noise, illness, certain drugs and, of course, the passage of time. By far the majority of those whose hearing has deteriorated will find that both ears are affected. At some point, as with our sight, many of us will need some help with our hearing – it's perfectly natural – and can quickly get you back to enjoying your life to the full. When we reach the stage when we accept that our eyesight could be improved, we know where to go and who can help us. But what do we do if we need help with our hearing?

### Where to go for help

Members of BSHAA who are Registered Hearing Aid Dispensers can be found near you, either in their own premises or in association with fellow professionals such as dentists, opticians and pharmacists. Many will also offer a domiciliary visiting service. You can find a dispenser near you by using the "Find a dispenser" facility on our website, [www.bshaa.com](http://www.bshaa.com).

### Testing and Examination

An array of equipment is available to assess and assist with hearing loss. Examination of the ear is an essential element of the process. The Hearing Aid Audiologist will assess and record the condition of the ear and eardrum. Audiometers accurately measure the hearing ability of each ear and, with a computer, directly programme hearing instruments using the test results to ensure the best possible match of amplification and hearing loss. This will involve you in no obligation.

### About hearing aids

The range of hearing instruments available within the private sector is quite staggering. Gone are the large cumbersome analogue aids. Today the size is significantly reduced, state of the art electronics can be miniaturised to such an extent that many hearing aids now sit completely within the ear canal itself.

### One ear or two?

Recent studies show that those wearing two hearing aids understand more clearly and enjoy better sound quality. Approximately two-thirds of new hearing aid wearers opt for dual hearing instruments. These wearers report a higher level of satisfaction than those who purchase a single instrument. The large majority of hearing impaired people have a hearing loss in both ears.