

Communicating with someone with hearing loss

- Do not yell (louder ≠ clearer)
- Face the resident (Do not have your back turned)
- Give visual cues if possible (masks may be a barrier)
- Speak slowly and clearly. Do not over enunciate your words (this distorts speech)
- Do not talk from another room
- Minimize extraneous noise when talking (e.g., crinkling of paper, closing curtains, etc.)

MORE RESOURCES

National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders

www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/hearing-aids

Hearing Loss Association of America

www.hearingloss.org/hearing-help/

Better Hearing Institute

betterhearing.org/

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association

www.asha.org/public/hearing/

We're one step closer to enhancing hearing health!



CONTACT INFORMATION

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YouTube

[@JT-WWU-AudiologyCapstone](https://www.youtube.com/@JT-WWU-AudiologyCapstone)

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May 2023

Betterment of hearing healthcare in nursing homes



About 70–90% of older adults in nursing homes have some degree of hearing loss



HEARING LOSS AND IMPORTANCE OF HEARING AID USE

- There are different severities of hearing loss that can have various causes
- Untreated hearing loss can lead to social isolation
- Barriers for hearing in noisy environments:
 - Distance between the resident and the talker
 - Background noise
 - Reverberation/echo
- Hearing aids can optimize and improve speech understanding by:
 - Amplifying specific speech sounds the resident is missing
 - Decreasing background noise to avoid listening fatigue

Basic understanding of hearing aids*



Hearing aids are prescribed to fit the user's hearing loss.

1. Sound is picked up by the microphone
2. The internal processor of the hearing aid amplifies that sound
3. The amplified sound comes through the tube/receiver, then into the user's ear

On/Off:

- Opening the battery door turns off the hearing aid
- If it's rechargeable, press and hold the volume down button for 2–3 sec

* = Hearing aid styles may vary depending on brand of the device

HEARING AID MAINTENANCE

Wear daily:

- Turn on hearing aid
- You know it's on when the hearing aid squeals in your hand when you cup it
- Check with the patient to ensure the devices are working

Night time storage and maintenance:

- Wipe/brush off any debris/earwax
- Store in a dry area
- Open battery door/put on charger if rechargeable

Quick troubleshooting tips:

- Change batteries. Also, check if battery is inserted properly
- Check for clogged earwax in the tube, earmold or wax guard
- Replace wax guard:



- For a BTE, check if the tubing is brittle
- If rechargeable – check for debris on the contacts (bottom of the hearing aid and in the charger)
- Contact audiologist if no resolution

SCAN QR CODE FOR TROUBLESHOOTING VIDEO

