

Services Guide

Hearing Aids

**NOTE 1: This information is pulled from credible sources. This information is a guide. Any information used from this guide must be re-contextualized (no copying and pasting). Re-*

**NOTE 2: For MCP websites, stick to general information and avoid specifics.*

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1. HEARING AIDS OVERVIEW

1.1 GENERAL INFORMATION

<http://www.kemphearingcentres.com/hearing-aids.html>

- Hearing aids improve your hearing ability by helping your brain in processing and understanding sound signals
- Hearing aids can be classified as analog or digital, depending on how they process sound
- Hearing aids are a personal decision
- You should absolutely talk to a specialist before you make any choices
- The type of hearing aid you get depends on severe your hearing loss is

1.2 SEO

Keywords (First Row – BEST, Last Row – LEAST)

○ Hearing loss	○ Hearing impairment	○ Tinnitus	○ Cochlear implant
○ Audiologist	○ Hearing test	○ Hearing aids	○ Hearing problems
○ Ear test	○ Hearing solutions	○ Hearing loss treatment	○ Hard of hearing
○ In-ear hearing aids	○ Sensorineural hearing loss	○ Hearing loss causes	○ Best hearing aids

1.3 AUDIOLOGISTS

- Hearing tests are done by a healthcare specialist known as an audiologist, who specializes in hearing and balance.
- Audiologists are required to have a master’s degree in audiology to practice in Canada. After completing an undergraduate degree, audiologists can complete their Masters in Audiology (M.Sc., M.Cl.Sc., M.Sc.S. or MPA) in two – three years.
 - Audiology schools in Canada: Dalhousie University, Western University, University of British Columbia, University of Montreal, University of Ottawa
- In some Canadian provinces/territories, the professions of speech-language pathology and audiology are regulated. Audiologists must register with the regulatory body in that province/territory to obtain a license/registration to practice.
 - Provinces with regulatory bodies:
 - Alberta
 - British Columbia
 - Saskatchewan
 - Manitoba

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- Ontario
- Quebec
- New Brunswick
- Newfoundland and Labrador

2. PRODUCTS

2.1 HEARING AIDS

<http://www.nexgenhearing.com/products/>

<http://www.kemphearingcentres.com/hearing-aid-styles.html>

<https://www.connecthearing.com/hearing-aids/types/>

Styles	Description
In the Ear (ITE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Pros:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Suitable for mild to severe hearing loss• Worn entirely in the ear• Easy to handle and insert• Able to fit larger and longer lasting batteries than smaller styles○ Cons:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Can create a “plugged up” feeling• More susceptible to moisture problems
In the Canal (ITC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Pros:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Suitable for mild to severe hearing loss• Fills the concha of the ear• Discreet• Gives a natural hearing experience• Stays in place• Cuts down on feedback○ Cons:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prone to moisture and earwax buildup• More difficulty in insertion than larger styles
Completely in the Canal (CIC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Pros:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Suitable for mild to moderate hearing loss• Rests deep in the ear canal• Completely discreet• Custom fit• Natural hearing experience due to placement• Low feedback due to placement

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stays in place○ Cons:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Short battery life due to smaller battery• More difficult to insert than larger styles• Moisture/earwax buildup• Fewer features than larger models
Invisible	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Pros:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Suitable for mild to moderate hearing loss• Worn deep in the ear canal• Least noticeable• Produces natural sound localization• Reduce occlusion○ Small size means short battery life<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Too small for directional microphones• Vulnerable to moisture• May be more expensive than larger models
Behind the Ear (BTE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Available in “open fit” or “closed fit”○ Open fit<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contains a thin plastic micro tube that extends over the outer ear and into the ear canal• Small and cosmetically appealing○ Closed fit<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ear mould fills the outer ear• Easier to handle than open fit• Minimizes whistling○ Pros:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Suitable for mild to profound hearing loss• Available in both thin-tube and hook solution• Rests behind the ear and transmits sound to the ear via tube○ Cons<ul style="list-style-type: none">• More visible than smaller models• More sensitive to wind

2.2 HEARING PROTECTION

<https://connecthearing.ca/hearing-aids-devices/protection/>

<http://www.earbandit.com/swimming-headband-ear-plugs-ordering-guide>

<http://www.earplugsuide.com/best-earplugs-for-sleeping/>

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Hearing Protection Device (HPD)	Description
Sleepers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Designed to be compact and comfortable in any sleeping position○ Get a good night's rest○ Good for light sleepers or those who live in noisy areas○ Needs to be high quality to assure your ears don't hurt the next morning
Musician Plugs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Keep your hearing protected while on stage or at a concert○ Many musicians lose hearing after a lifetime playing loud music – don't let that happen to you○ Come in 4 filter options depending on the volume and frequency of the music you enjoy or play○ Can also depend on the instrument you play and your position in the band
Swim Molds	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Protect your ears while swimming○ Reduce infections and bone growths in ear canal○ Or even if you just don't like having water in your ears○ Made from material designed for use in water

2.3 CUSTOM EARPIECES

- Custom-designed earpieces for Bluetooth earpieces, iPod earbuds, and more
- For when you're having trouble getting things to stay in your ear
- Experience improved comfort and sound quality

3. SERVICES

3.1 CONSULTATIONS

<http://www.burnabyhearingcentre.com/consultation/>

- "I have had a recent hearing test (past 6 months)"
 - Fantastic! Have your file sent to our office
 - We will walk you through our process
 - We will do a thorough review of your recent hearing test results
- "I have NOT had a recent hearing test, and I am ready to take one"
 - Recommended!
- "I have NOT had a recent hearing test, and I don't want to take one"
 - We will be happy to answer general, information-gathering questions
 - IMPORTANT: We cannot identify with certainty the optimal treatment solutions for your specific case without diagnostic results of a recent hearing test

3.2 HEARING TESTS

<http://hearinglifecanada.ca/hearing-loss-3/>

<http://www.burnabyhearingcentre.com/hearing-tests/>

http://local.connecthearing.ca/hearing-test/british-columbia/vancouver?gclid=CjwKEAjw1qHABRDU9qaXs4rtiS0SJADNzJisvKfL2_doodFCyIfS6oZ4DCKi2v0n6DGW55xvGjBs5BoCtzXw_wcB

3.2.1 Signs of Hearing Loss

Here are a few signs that could indicate hearing loss. If you find yourself answering yes to any of these, it is an indication that you should go get your hearing evaluated:

- Do you hear people speaking but have difficulty understanding the words?
- Do you find yourself asking others to repeat themselves?
- Do people seem to mumble?
- Are certain female or children's voices difficult to clearly understand?
- Do you find it difficult to follow conversations in a crowded room or in groups of people?
- Do you find it difficult to follow conversations in a crowded room or in groups of people?
- Do you ever avoid social situations because of your hearing?
- Do you find yourself having to turn the volume up on your television or radio?
- Do you ever respond or answer inappropriately in conversations?
- Do you have a family history of hearing loss?
- Do you take medications that may contribute to hearing loss?
- Have you been exposed to loud sounds over a long period of time?

3.2.2 Process

Steps	Description
1. Interview	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Identifies your specific concern, lifestyle needs, and hearing preferences
2. Examination	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Check for possible obstructions in the ear or anything that might affect hearing results○ Ear wax buildup, ear infections etc.
3. Diagnostics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ This is the actual test○ We okay a series of tones through headphones in a soundproof room or booth○ You will be asked to press a button when you hear each sound

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4. Treatment Solutions

- Your results will be explained to you by a professional
- Focus will be on the implications of the results
- If it is found that you would benefit from a hearing aid, we will talk to you about the products that are best suited for you and your needs and lifestyle