

### Types of Hearing Aids

1. Behind the ear or BTE devices – larger devices with hollow tubes to an ear mould – usually a size 13 (orange packet battery)
  2. Receiver in the canal or RIC device – small behind the ear aid with a wire to the power box in ear canal, usually a size 312 battery (brown colour packet)
  3. In the ear device or ITC/E (usually a size 312 battery, brown packet markings)
  4. Alternative Listening Devices or ALD (usually a body worn device looks like a portable radio)
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### General Hearing Aid Guidelines

1. Always be **gentle** with hearing aids and taking out and putting in patient's ears
2. Turning ON and Turning OFF the hearing aids = open / close battery door. Always turn off when not wearing the aids.  
  
The battery life varies depending on the duration of wear and degree of hearing loss.
3. Identifying hearing aids – RED colour on aid = right ear / BLUE colour on aid = left ear
4. It is ideal for the client to wear the hearing aids all their waking hours
5. Develop a HABBIT IT'S THE MOST IMPORTANT PUT HEARING AIDS ON EVERY DAY IN BOTH EARS
6. Provide lots of positive reinforcement to the client. Eg. "well done John, I see you're wearing your hearing aids... it's easier to speak with you now...."

### 5. Signs that hearing aids are not working

- a) client isn't responding to speech at 'normal' speech levels, keeps asking for repeats, needs to see your face when talking, TV up loud
- b) if you touch the top of the hearing aid mics – the client should hear it loudly in ear

- c) the hearing aid should whistle in your hand 10 seconds after turning on (cupping hands around device).
- d) if you take out the hearing aid and there is a lot of wax on it, this may indicate that there is a lot of wax in the ear canal which may prevent the client from hearing.

## **6. Trouble Shooting when client not hearing well or hearing aids not working**

- a) Change batteries (FLAT side always faces up)
- b) Wax blocking sound outlet (wax tools, wax guards to replace). If a lot of wax, call the GP to syringe the client's ears
- c) Water may block some BTE tubes – pull off from aid and blow through (uncommon but does happen)
- d) If you pull off the hearing aid mould from the aid see if the aid whistles (if it does, blocked mould, clear wax or water).
- e) if you have changed the batteries cleaned wax out and the hearing aid still is not working – contact your audiologist.