

Clinical Hearing Care Online Hearing Aids

Selecting the most suitable hearing devices for the challenges you experience will reduce frustration and save time and money. When the devices make a meaningful impact in your daily life, you will want to use them.



Clinical Hearing Care

Professional assessments and support to treat and manage hearing loss, including prescribing hearing aids and programming the devices to the wearer.



Online Hearing Aids

Devices designed to provide general amplification and can be purchased in store or online without professional assessments and fitting.

Hearing Tests

Comprehensive hearing assessment

A regulated clinician will inspect the external, middle, inner ears and the auditory nerve.



Simple hearing test

Unregulated online services only check how loud you need sounds in order to hear them, and there is no analysis of your ear's structure or function.

Diagnosing hearing loss

A clinician will review the test results and seek a diagnosis for the type of hearing loss.



No hearing loss diagnosis

The simple hearing test cannot indicate the type of hearing loss.

Medical referrals

If necessary, a clinician can refer you to a medical specialist.



No referrals

Even if you need it, online services cannot refer you for medical attention.

Professional Support

Regulated and certified

Clinicians are either Hearing Aid Practitioners or Audiologists, including Doctors of Audiology.



Unregulated and not certified

Professional oversight and certification are not required in online services.

Medical expertise

Education in hearing aid technology and audiology varies from 2 to 11 years.



Medical expertise not required

If any, there is only generic and basic attention to your medical needs.

Hearing Aids & Technology

Evidence-based recommendations

Hearing professionals use research and diagnostics to recommend the best devices to your specific needs.



Generic technology

The options are intended to work with the largest group of people, not to your specific needs.

Proper fitting and verification

Hearing aids are fitted using specialized equipment to confirm they match your hearing loss prescription.



No fitting and verification

Online devices are usually fitted using a do-it-yourself approach and are seldom validated.

Real ear measurements

This specialized procedure ensures your hearing aids are properly adjusted while you are wearing them.



No real ear measurements

There are no clinical assessments to verify the devices are properly set up and working as expected.

Convenient maintenance and repairs

Clinics provide in-house maintenance, updates, cleaning and minor repairs, usually for free.



Mail-in repairs

Maintenance and cleaning are self-serve, and devices need to be shipped to be serviced or repaired.

Hearing devices that make a difference

While clinical hearing instruments cost more up front, the goal is to identify devices that you will want to use because they are effective.



Inexpensive but less effective

Amplifiers and hearing aids sold online or through a referral service cost less but are not set up for proper auditory stimulation.

Find an audiologist near you.
Visit www.aaofa.ca.

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