

## **FAQs**

### **What causes hearing loss?**

The majority of hearing losses are a result of ageing. Other possible causes are prolonged exposure to loud noises, hereditary, certain illnesses, and medication. However, the most common form of hearing loss is called nerve deafness. This comes about as a result of the fact that the cochlea (inner ear) and auditory nerves do not properly transmit their signals to the brain.

### **Do I need to be referred by my family doctor?**

You may come along to the Hearing Care Centre without referral from your family doctor. Our examination will identify any potentially medically treatable condition, and we will recommend that you seek medical advice where necessary. We encourage the involvement of medical professionals and with your permission, we will keep your GP or Consultant informed of your progress.

### **When should I consider hearing aids?**

As soon as you notice that you are not hearing as well as you used to. It is better to start wearing hearing aids sooner rather than later. Generally speaking, the longer you leave it, the longer it takes to get used to wearing hearing aids.

### **Why do I need a hearing assessment?**

Before we can recommend or fit you with any hearing aids we need to carry out a hearing assessment. The tests that we will carry out will help us decide the best instruments for you. We are legally required to carry out a hearing test before we are able to fit you with hearing aids. As part of the hearing assessment the Hearing Aid Audiologist needs to have a full understanding of your concerns and hearing needs and the greater part of the assessment will be spent on this. An audiogram is recorded to show the extent of any hearing loss that you may have. This will show the severity of loss measured in decibels and also the type of sounds (low or high pitch) that you have most difficulty hearing. The rest of the assessment will be spent explaining the results to you and discussing which hearing aids would best meet your needs.

### **What should I do next?**

Contact us on our freephone number to arrange an appointment for an initial consultation. This initial evaluation is completely free of charge and without obligation.

If you have any queries you are welcome to contact The Hearing Care Centre for individual advice on

**0800 028 6179**