



Allegheny County Schools  
Health Insurance Consortium

FOCUS ON HEARING HEALTH

# What to Know about Hearing Loss

## Recognizing the signs of hearing loss

Signs of hearing loss can develop slowly over time, or they can begin suddenly. Struggling to hear certain sounds or syllables is a telltale sign of hearing loss.

An estimated 30 million Americans suffer from hearing loss and could benefit from using hearing aids.<sup>1</sup> Left untreated, hearing loss can have significant effects on communication abilities, quality of life, social participation and overall health.

## If you think you're experiencing hearing loss...

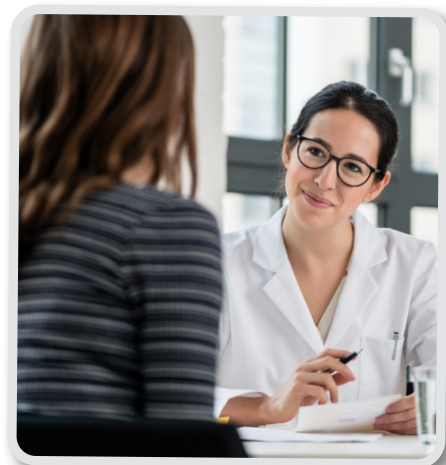
Schedule a hearing exam to find out if you have hearing loss. Call Your Hearing Network at 1-888-790-6244 to connect with a local hearing provider and obtain your free, no obligation hearing examination.

## How is hearing loss treated?

Most hearing loss conditions in adults are treated with hearing aids. The type and style of hearing aid depends on the individual hearing loss, lifestyle, personal needs and preferences. Talk with your provider about treatment options and find out how today's discreet Bluetooth and smartphone equipped hearing aids can improve your hearing and wellness.

## What to expect at a hearing exam?

Your hearing provider will examine your ears, conduct a comprehensive hearing test, and provide an explanation of your results. You will learn about your type and degree of hearing loss, and have the opportunity to talk with your provider about your hearing concerns.



Our nationwide network of highly skilled and licensed hearing healthcare professionals provide patients with quality care and service. Schedule an appointment today with a local provider in your area.



Members receive up to a **\$200** mail-in rebate after purchase of select devices<sup>2</sup>

## Impact of Hearing Loss

Studies have shown that hearing loss affects emotional, psychological and financial well-being. In fact, when untreated, hearing loss can lead to:

- Impaired memory and ability to learn new tasks
- Reduced alertness and increased risk to personal safety
- Reduced job performance and earning power
- Irritability, negativism, and anger
- Fatigue, tension, stress, and depression
- Withdrawal from social situations

Hearing loss is linked to serious and costly health issues such as:



### DEMENTIA AND ALZHEIMER'S

Moderate hearing loss triples the risk for dementia, while individuals with severe hearing loss are 5 times more likely to develop dementia. Caring for those with Alzheimer's and other dementias will total an estimated \$277 billion, making it the most expensive disease in America.<sup>3</sup>

### DEPRESSION

Untreated hearing loss is associated with an increased risk of depression, especially between the ages of 18 and 69. Major depressive disorder (MDD) affects 15 million adults and costs more than \$210 billion per year.<sup>3</sup>

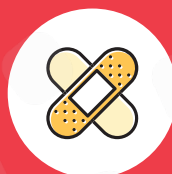


### INJURY-CAUSING FALLS

Even mild hearing loss triples the risk of an injury-causing fall, with the risk increasing by 140% for every additional 10 decibels of hearing loss. Falls are the leading cause of accidental death of Americans over the age of 65. Medical costs from falls are \$30-\$50 billion a year.<sup>3</sup>

### WORKPLACE INJURIES

Hearing loss can inhibit or prevent your ability to recognize hazards, which poses a risk to your safety. It is also the most common work-related injury with over 20 million workers exposed annually to hazardous levels of occupational noise.<sup>3</sup>



**Contact Your Hearing Network today!**  
Call 1-888-790-6244 to schedule an appointment with a provider in your area.

An exclusive discount program for ACSHIC Members and their families includes...<sup>4</sup>



A FREE annual hearing exam for members 21 and older.



Up to 40% off national prices on high-performing hearing devices and 10% off accessories.<sup>5</sup>



4-year manufacturer's warranty, including loss and damage coverage.



4-year supply of batteries for FREE with each hearing aid purchased.



1 year of follow-up care at no additional cost.



Interest free financing available.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>\*</sup>Representatives are available to take your call Monday - Friday between 8:30 am - 8:00 pm eastern time. <sup>1</sup>National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders ([www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/statistics/quick-statistics-hearing](http://www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/statistics/quick-statistics-hearing)). <sup>2</sup>Rebates are valid only on product technology levels 3, 4, 5 and may not be used with any federal or state funded reimbursement programs. Rebates are not valid on returned hearing aids, please allow 60 days for receipt of the mail-in-rebate. <sup>3</sup>As referenced in America's Benefit Specialist, June 2020 issue. <sup>4</sup>Free hearing exam is for Members 18 and over. <sup>5</sup>Over 40% off pricing as referenced in the Consumer Guide to Hearing Aids, details available on request. Discount varies depending on product. This offer is only good at participating Your Hearing Network provider locations and cannot be combined with any other offer or discount. <sup>6</sup>Approval based on credit.