



Information for  
patients and  
carers

## Aural Impression

## What is an aural impression?

An impression of the ear is taken in order to reproduce the exact shape of your outer ear and ear canal. This is then used to produce a custom made ear piece for use with your hearing aid or as a swim mould.

## Before you attend

It is important that your ears are free of wax and infection prior to attending. If you have had recent surgery or trauma to your ears it is important to let the Audiologist know.

## The procedure

Before taking an impression, the Audiologist will explain the process and take a look inside your ear to determine if it is safe to proceed.

The procedure is not uncomfortable. However, if at any point you experience any discomfort you can alert the Audiologist by raising your hand.

If there are no contraindications the Audiologist will firstly insert an otostop (sponge stopper) into your ear canal using a small earlight followed by a silicone mixture using a syringe. This may create a sensation of fullness, tingling or coughing due to the sensitivity of the ear canal and its link to the throat.

The impression material will be left to set for a few minutes. It is important that you remain still and quiet at this point as facial movements can result in a poor fitting ear mould. Once set, the impression will be carefully removed and your ear will be examined again.

## Collection of your earmould

Your new ear mould should be ready within 2-3 weeks. We will contact you when it is ready to collect from the Audiology Department.

## What are the risks of having an aural impression?

An aural impression is a low risk procedure and the Audiologist will always consider any contraindications prior to taking the impression to minimise complications. On rare occasions there is a risk of the impression material being retained within the ear or perforation of the ear drum.

## Are there any alternative options available?

An aural impression is always required for an initial custom ear mould/swim mould to be made. A reprint of the initial ear mould can be re-ordered in some circumstances.

The Audiologist may explore open fit hearing aid options if suitable for your degree of hearing loss.

## Contact details

Should you require further advice or information please contact:

Audiology Department (Hearing and Balance Service)

Royal Preston Hospital

Sharoe Green Lane

Fulwood

Preston

PR2 9HT

Tel: 01772 522751

Email: [hearing.balance@lthtr.nhs.uk](mailto:hearing.balance@lthtr.nhs.uk)

## Sources of further information

[www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk](http://www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk)

[www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)

[www.patient.co.uk](http://www.patient.co.uk)

[www.accessable.co.uk](http://www.accessable.co.uk)

All our patient information leaflets are available on our website for patients to access and download:

[www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/patient-information-leaflets](http://www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/patient-information-leaflets)

**Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust is not responsible for the content of external internet sites.**

Lancashire Teaching Hospitals is a smoke-free site.

On 31 May 2017 Lancashire Teaching Hospitals became a smoke-free organisation. From that date smoking is not permitted anywhere on any of our premises, either inside or outside the buildings. Our staff will ask you about your smoking status when you come to hospital and will offer you support and advice about stopping smoking including Nicotine Replacement Therapy to help manage your symptoms of withdrawal.

If you want to stop smoking you can also contact the Quit Squad Freephone 0800 328 6297.

Please ask if you would like help in understanding this information. This information can be made available in large print and in other languages.

**Cantonese:**

如果你希望以另外一種格式接收該資訊，請和我們聯絡，不必猶豫。

**Gujarati:**

જો તમને આ માહિતી બીજી રચના કે ફોર્મેટમાં મેળવવાની ઈચ્છા હોય, તો કૃપા કરી અમારો સંપર્ક કરતા અચકાશો નહિ.

**Hungarian:**

Kérjük, vegye fel velünk a kapcsolatot, ha más formában kéri ezt az információt.

**Polish:**

Jeżeli chciał(a)by Pan/Pani otrzymać niniejsze informacje w innym formacie, prosimy o kontakt.

**Punjabi:**

ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਫਾਰਮੈਟ ਵਿਚ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਲੈਣਾ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋ ਤਾਂ ਸਾਡੇ ਨਾਲ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰਨ ਤੋਂ ਨਾ ਝਿਜਕੋ।

**Urdu:**

اگر آپ اس معلومات کو کسی اور صورت میں حاصل کرنا چاہتے ہیں تو برائے مہربانی ہم سے رابطہ کرنے میں ہچکچاہٹ محسوس نہ کریں۔

**Department:** Audiology

**Division:** Surgery

**Production date:** December 2020

**Review date:** December 2023

**JR594 v1**