

HEARING AID
TECHNOLOGY
UPDATE

Anne Sommer AuD CCC-A

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**MEET YOUR
LOCAL
AUDIOLOGIST**

Anne Sommer AuD, CCC-A
Assistant Clinical Professor
Purdue Audiology Clinic

CAOHC Course Director
Certificate Holder Tinnitus Management
(CH-TM)
Indiana Speech-Language-Hearing
Association (ISHA)

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE

I have NO relevant financial or nonfinancial relationships in the products described in this presentation.

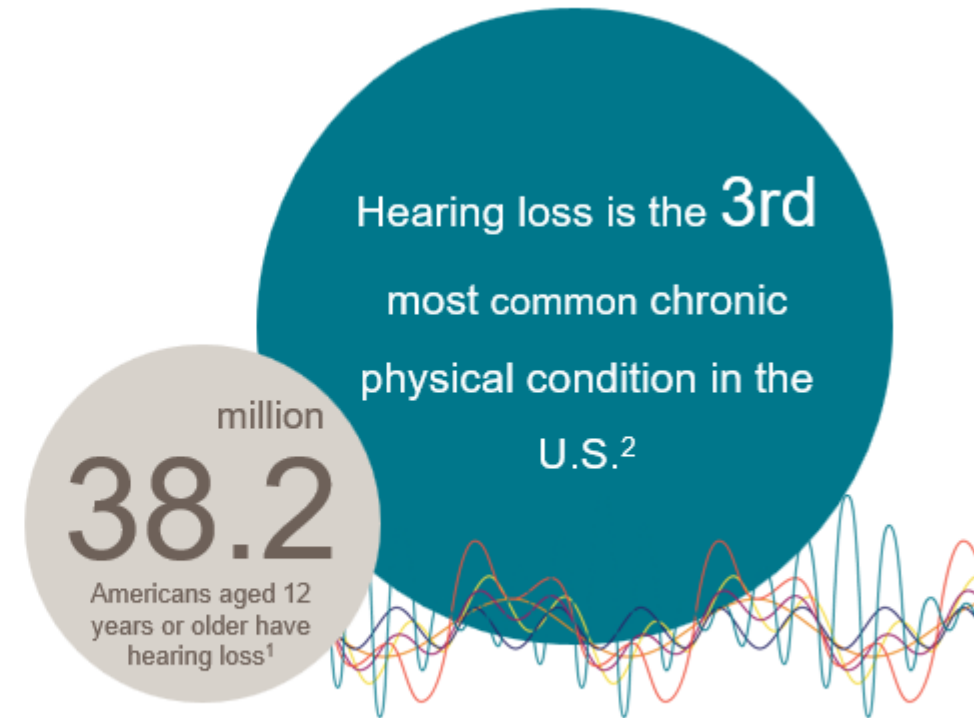
I am a salaried clinical faculty member in the
Department of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences (SLHS)
Purdue University.

WHAT IS AN AUDIOLOGIST?

- Audiologists are health care professionals working to prevent, diagnose, and manage hearing and balance disorders for people of all ages.
- An audiologist has a master's or doctoral degree and over 1,800+ hours of clinical training.
- [Audiologist and Hearing Aid Dispenser: What Is the Difference?](#)

PREVALENCE OF HEARING LOSS

- Increases with age
 - 1–3 of every 1,000 babies born in the U.S. have hearing loss
 - Approximately 15% of adults 18+ report difficulty hearing
 - > 80% of individuals 80+ have some degree of hearing loss¹



WHY IS TREATMENT IMPORTANT

- Untreated hearing loss is linked to cognitive decline, dementia, falls, social isolation, and depression. It can also affect quality of life at home and work.
- Individuals with hearing loss are at increased risk of developing dementia, compared to those without hearing loss.³

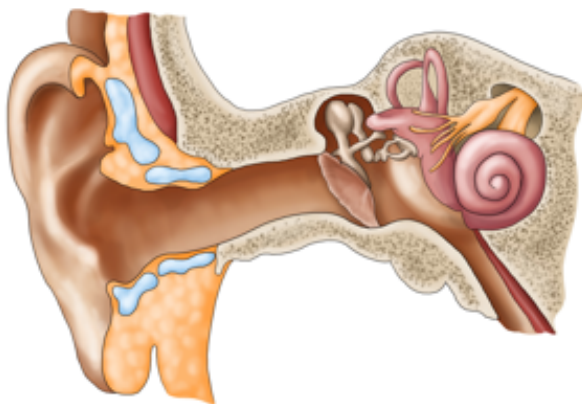
Only 20%–30% of adults with hearing difficulties wear a hearing aid.

On average, adults wait about 7 years to pursue treatment for a hearing loss

**IS AN OVER-THE-COUNTER
(OTC) HEARING AID
RIGHT FOR ME?**

OTC HEARING AIDS

The U.S. Congress passed legislation in 2017 requiring the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to develop regulations for over-the-counter (OTC) hearing aids. The intent of the legislation was to offer adults with perceived mild-to-moderate hearing loss the opportunity to purchase a device on their own at a lower cost.



OTC hearing aids:

- Are meant for individuals with *perceived* mild-to-moderate hearing loss.
- Are intended for individuals aged 18 years and older.
- Do not require a hearing evaluation.
- Have a “one-size-fits-most” design.
- May reduce barriers to hearing health care.

OTC HEARING AID LEGISLATION TIMELINE

October 2015:
**President's Council of
Advisors on Science
and Technology**
(PCAST) recognizes the
impact of untreated
hearing loss on an aging
population. PCAST
makes several
recommendations,
including the creation of
a new category of basic
hearing aids to be sold
over the counter.

August 2018: Hearing
care associations (AAA,
ADA, ASHA, IHS)
release *Regulatory
Recommendations for OTC
Hearing Aids: Safety and
Effectiveness, a
consensus paper.*

October 2021: The
**FDA releases
proposed rule** for
OTC hearing aids for
adults 18 and older with
mild to moderate
hearing loss.

August 2017: **The FDA
Reauthorization Act
of 2017** directs the FDA
to develop regulations
for over-the-counter
hearing aids, with the
devices to be made
available to the public by
2020.

2020: **COVID-19
pandemic occurs.**

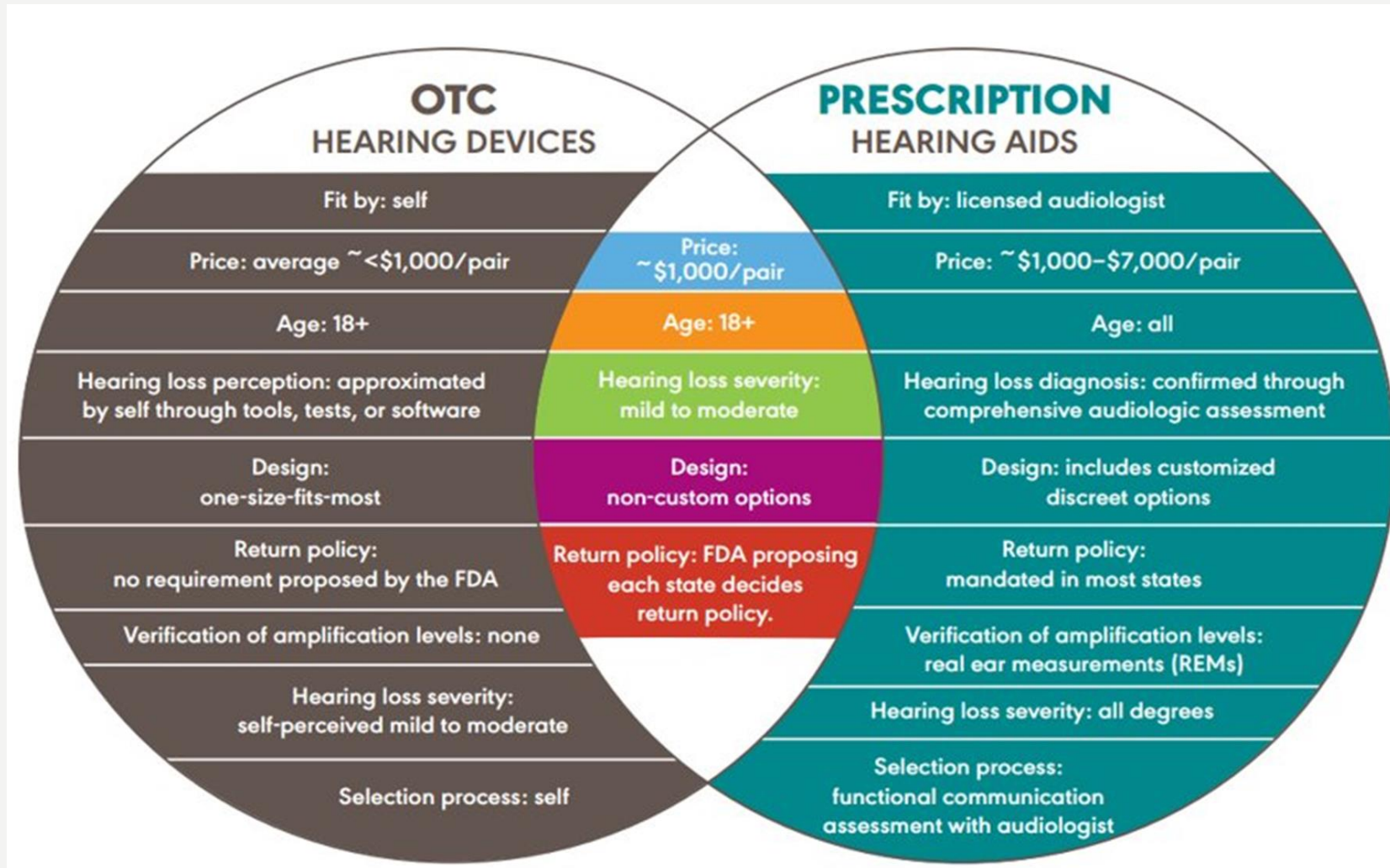
August 2022: The **FDA
releases final rule** for
OTC hearing aids.
Effective date is **60 days**
following publication in
the Federal Register.

FIRST STEP: CONSULT AN AUDIOLOGIST

- Do you have concerns about your hearing? Get tested by a licensed audiologist. This is the best first step, *even if planning to buy an OTC hearing aid.*
- The audiologist will check for common medical causes of hearing loss, like too much earwax.
- They will perform a hearing evaluation to check for hearing loss. If you are experiencing hearing loss, they will describe severity, type, and options.



OTC VS. PRESCRIPTION HEARING AIDS: WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE?



AUDIOLOGY REFERRAL REQUIRED

Please check all items that apply to you:

- I am younger than 18 years old.
- I hear much better in one ear than in the other ear.
- In the last 6 months, I suddenly cannot hear out of one or both ears as well as I used to.
- I have ringing, roaring, or beeping in one or both of my ears.
- I have a history of taking medication that causes hearing loss.
- I have a history of chemotherapy and/or radiation in the head and neck region.
- In the last 6 months, I have noticed active drainage from one or both of my ears.
- I have constant pain or discomfort in one or both of my ears.
- I experience dizziness.

If you check any one of the boxes above, an OTC hearing aid may not work for you. Consult with an audiologist. Please see pharmacist for recommendation.

WHERE DO I BUY AN OTC HEARING AID?

- Local pharmacies, large retail chains, and online providers may sell OTC hearing aids.
- It is important to read all the information on the “box” before buying a device; you may not be able to return it.
- Many audiologists will still be able to help you with basic maintenance of these devices for a service fee.

WHEN TO STOP USING AN OTC HEARING AID



RECENT HEARING AID INNOVATIONS

“Top 10 List”

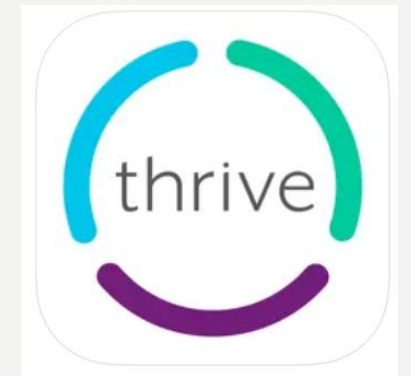
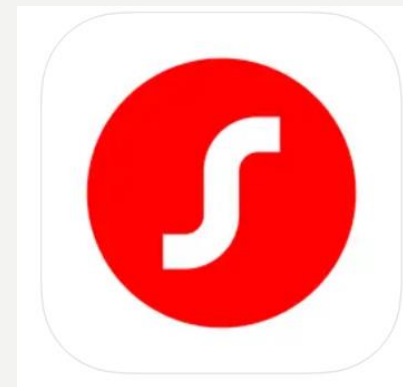
RECENT HEARING AID INNOVATIONS

- Rechargeability
- Charges hearing aids in three hours*
- 30-minute quick charge for addition six hours of power
- Travel Smart Charger with built-in power bank
- Drying function

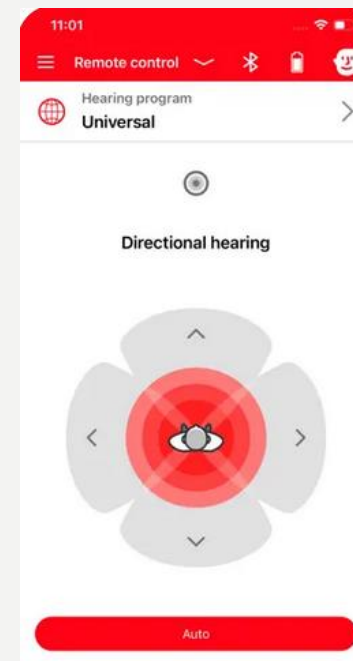
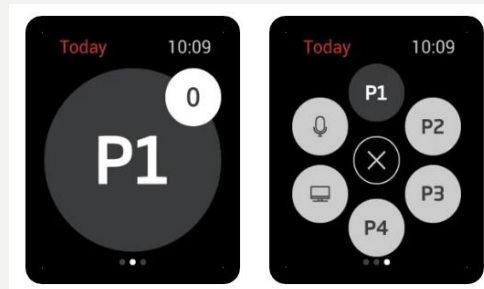
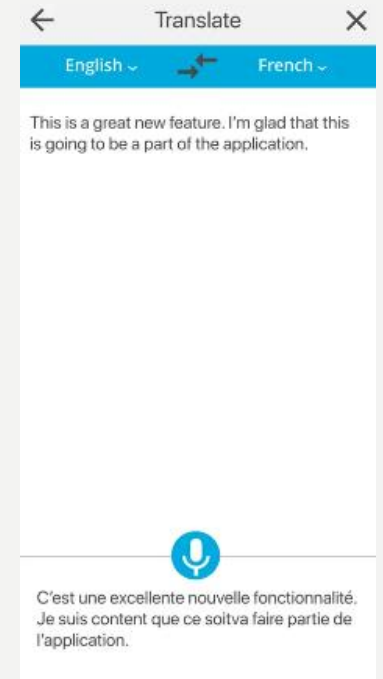
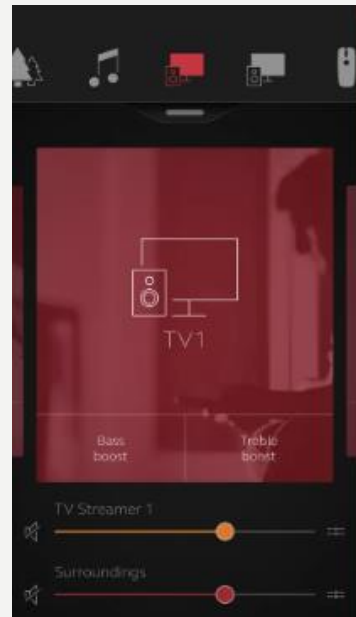
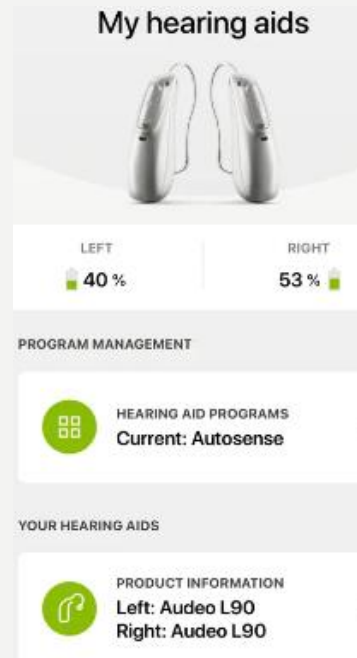
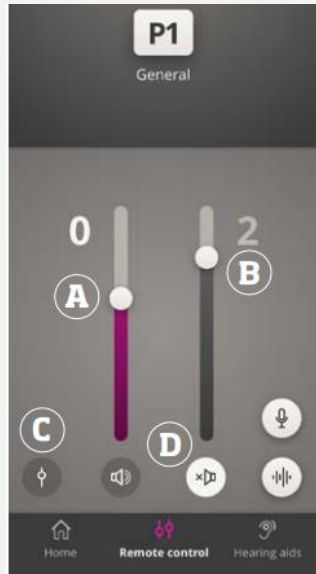


RECENT HEARING AID INNOVATIONS

- Smart phone applications (apps) and Bluetooth streaming
- Apple iOS and Android compatible*

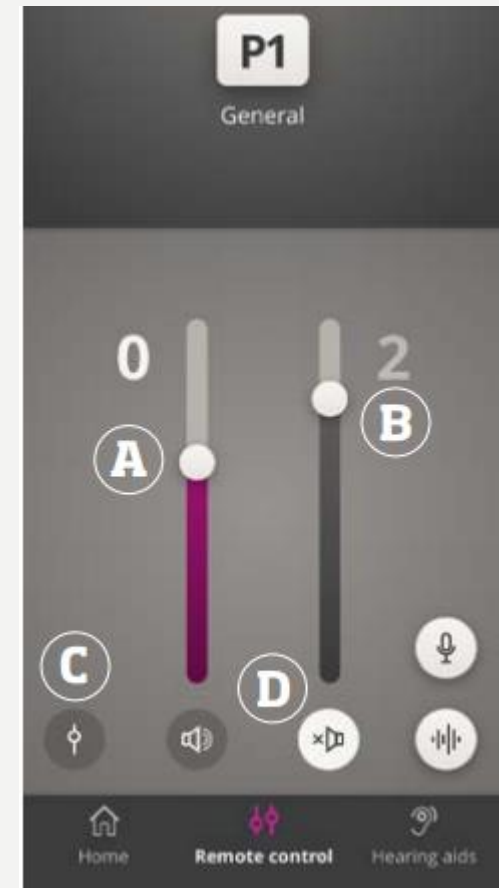


RECENT HEARING AID INNOVATIONS



RECENT HEARING AID INNOVATIONS

- Apple iOS “live listen” Remote Microphone



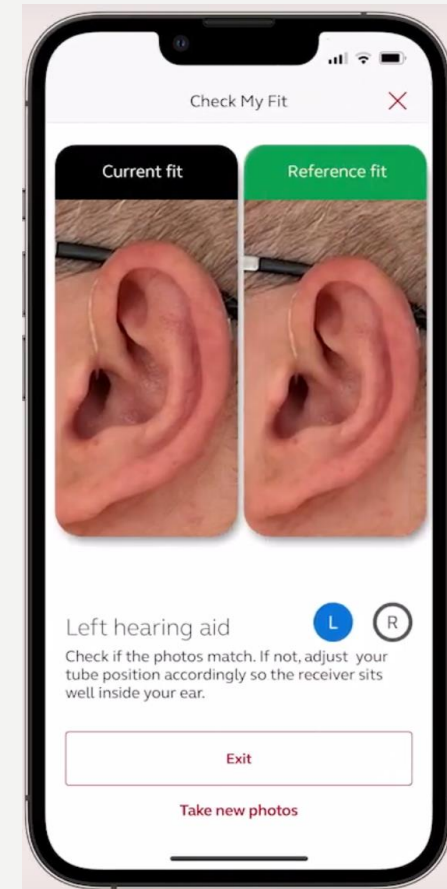
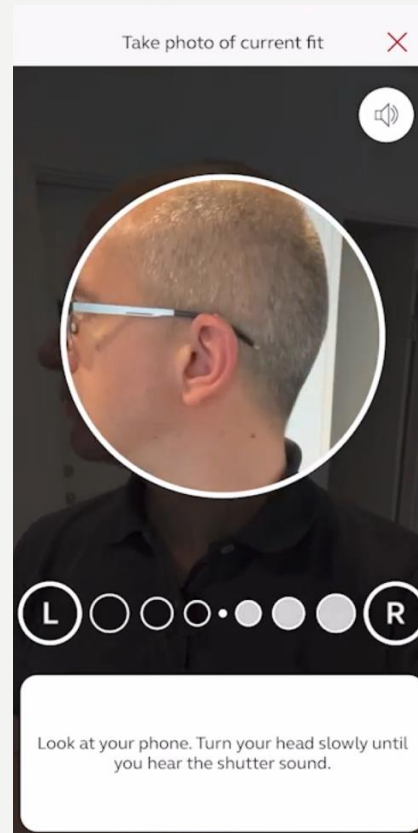
RECENT HEARING AID INNOVATIONS

- Find My Hearing Aid geolocation



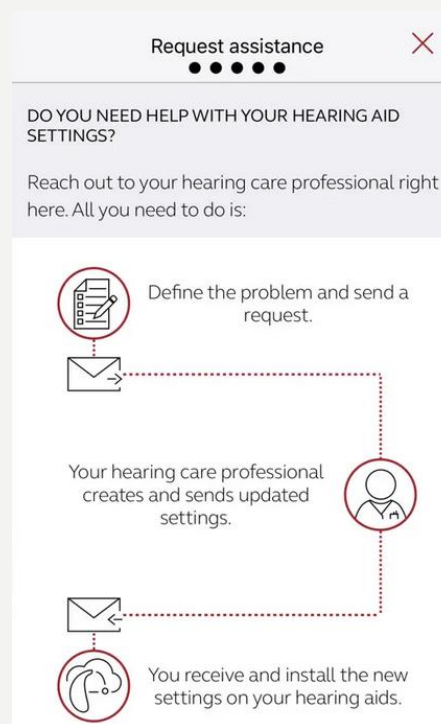
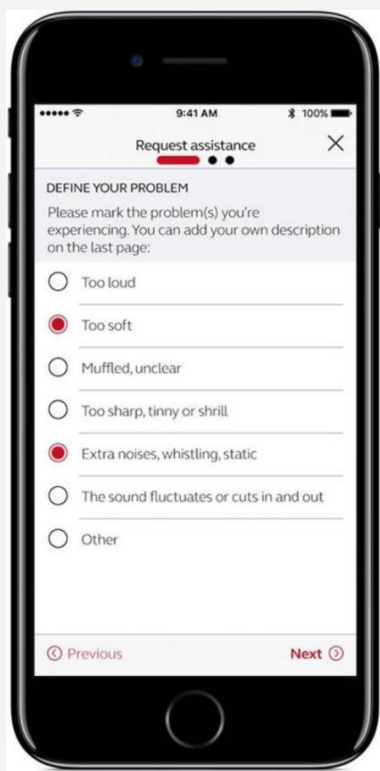
RECENT HEARING AID INNOVATIONS

- Check My Fit (ReSound)



RECENT HEARING AID INNOVATIONS

- Remote assist/remote programming

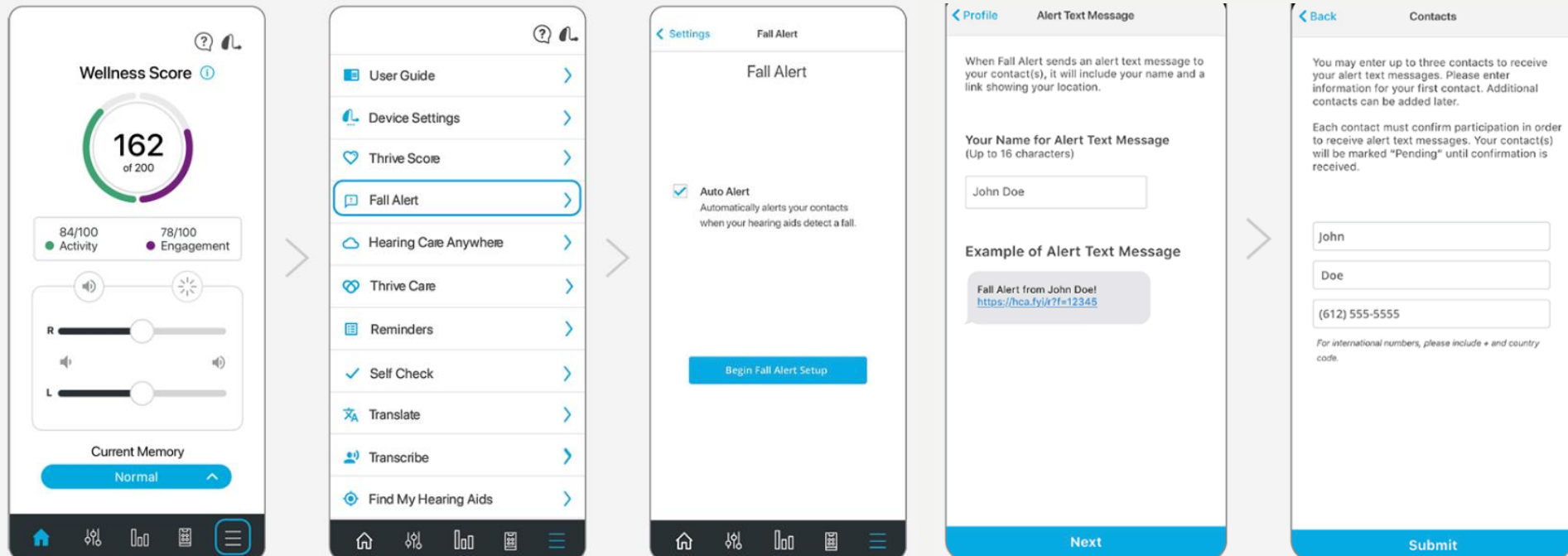


RECENT HEARING AID INNOVATIONS

- Hands-free cell phone calling and “tap” control
- Own voice pick-up
- Tap control feature allows controlling the hearing aid by a “double tap” instead of using the hearing aid button or a remote control
 - Pause/resume streaming from a Bluetooth device
 - Accept/end phone calls
 - Start/stop voice assistant (Siri, Google etc.)

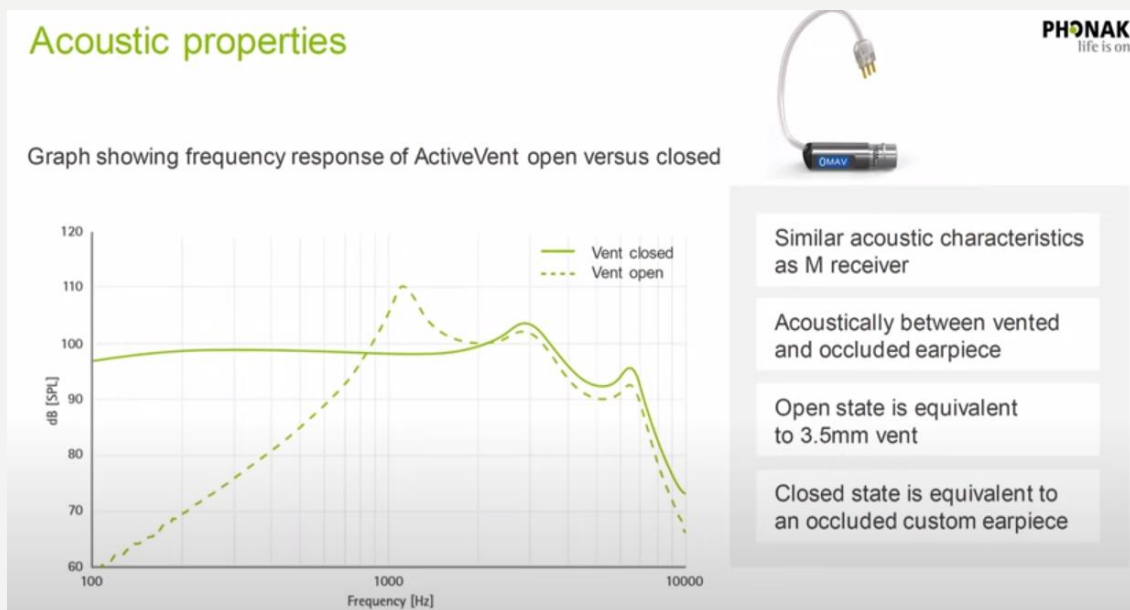
RECENT HEARING AID INNOVATIONS

- Health and Fall monitoring



RECENT HEARING AID INNOVATIONS

- M Active Vent (MAV) Receivers (Phonak)



RECENT HEARING AID INNOVATIONS

- M Active Vent (MAV) Receivers (Phonak)

Phonak ActiveVent™ Receiver Candidacy checklist

Patient name:

Date:

DOB:

Background

ActiveVent Receiver features a switchable vent, which combines the benefits of an open fit and a closed fit in one receiver. Due to the complex nature of this technology, please consider the following:

ActiveVent Receiver requires:

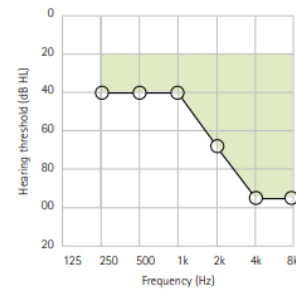
- Hearing thresholds within the appropriate range (see diagram)
- Rechargeable Audéo Paradise hearing aids
- Additional cleaning and care beyond a standard receiver

Is ActiveVent Receiver right for your client?

Ask the following questions to determine if ActiveVent is the right solution for your client.

1. Does the client have hearing thresholds within the above range?
2. Would the client normally be fit with an open or a vented dome?
3. Does the client have sufficient dexterity to change wax filters?
4. Are the client's ears free of excess moisture and cerumen?
5. Is the client willing to disable audio notifications on their phone?
6. Does the client report problematic tinnitus?
7. Does the client report pain or discomfort from loud sounds?

Optimal fitting range for ActiveVent Receiver



- Yes No
- Yes No
- Yes No
- Yes No
- Yes No
- Yes No
- Yes No

OK to proceed with ActiveVent Receiver trial and fitting?

- Yes No

RECENT HEARING AID INNOVATIONS

- M&RIE Receivers (ReSound)



ASSISTIVE LISTENING DEVICES

- Remote microphones
- Television streamers
- Roger On IN



RECENT HEARING AID INNOVATIONS

- Rechargeability
- Smart phone applications (apps) and Bluetooth streaming
- Apple iOS “live listen” remote microphone
- Find My Hearing Aid geolocation
- Check My Fit (ReSound)
- Remote assist/remote programming
- Hands-free cell phone calling and tap control
- Health and Fall detection monitoring
- M Active Vent (MAV) Receivers (Phonak)
- M&RIE Receivers (ReSound)



QUESTIONS?

RESOURCES AND REFERENCES

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*Information in this PowerPoint presentation was last updated 7/3/2022.
Please refer to [Over-the-Counter Hearing Aid Toolkit \(asha.org\)](https://www.asha.org/over-the-counter-hearing-aid-toolkit) for updates.





Thank You!

Contact Information:

Anne Sommer, AuD

Purdue Audiology Clinic

765-494-3789

sommerera@purdue.edu