HEARING AID DISPENSING POLICY

EVALUATION: Northwestern University Audiology Clinic offers a comprehensive audiologic program for those individuals who can benefit from hearing aid use. The components of the program include a detailed hearing test, the determination of an individual's potential to obtain benefit from hearing aid use, and an evaluation of performance with amplification. When indicated, a hearing aid(s) to suit individual needs will be recommended.

TRIAL: Following the completion of evaluation procedures, the prospective hearing aid user is advised to obtain the selected hearing aid(s). There is a 60-day trial period. The user is asked to return to Northwestern for final checks of hearing aid performance during this adjustment time. With the guidance of the clinical staff, the individual will decide to keep, to exchange, or to return the hearing aid(s) for a refund of the aid(s)' cost minus a $300 user fee per aid.

PAYMENT: Full payment is required before any product will be dispensed. The cost of hearing aids, related appointments, and accessories are NOT covered by Medicare. Payment may be made in cash, by check or with a major credit card.

CREDENTIALS: Evaluations are non-medical and are conducted by audiologists holding a Certificate of Clinical Competence from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, as well as a Master's, Au.D., or Ph.D. degree in Audiology, or by students working under the supervision of a person with these credentials. All services provided prior to the dispensing of the recommended products are those deemed necessary and appropriate by the supervising audiologist. Each staff member is licensed as an audiologist by the State of Illinois Professional Regulation Board.

On the reverse side of this page the typical sequence of appointments, fees and procedures are described for clients seen at this facility.
TYPICAL SEQUENCE OF APPOINTMENTS FOR HEARING AID CANDIDATES

1. Basic Audiologic Evaluation  
   Fee: varies with service, typical range is $65-$331.00  
   Time: 1-2 hours  
   ---Complete audiologic assessment of hearing.  
   ---Communication needs assessment.  
   ---Pending available time, hearing aid selection and ear impression(s) may also be performed at this  
      appointment (if indicated).  

   ---NOTE: The Illinois Department of Public Health requires that audiologic evaluation be performed within 6  
      months of the purchase of any new hearing aid.

2. Hearing Aid Evaluation  
   Fee: $100-$150  
   Time: 1 hour  
   (assumes current--less than 6 months old--results of audiologic evaluation are available)  

   ---In-depth counseling regarding amplification options.  
   ---Further evaluation to determine appropriate hearing aid characteristics.  
   ---Recommendation of specific hearing aid and/or assistive listening device (if indicated).  
   ---Ear impression (if indicated).  
   ---Preliminary counseling regarding hearing aid use and adjustment (if indicated).  

3. Hearing Aid Fitting  
   Fee: None for service  
   Time: 1 - 1.5 hour  

   ---Hearing aid(s) and/or earmold(s) fitted.  
   ---A measure of hearing aid performance is obtained.  
   ---In-depth counseling regarding hearing aid use and adjustment.  
   ---Payment for hearing aid expected (cost varies--$1050 to $3300 each).  

4. Hearing Aid Recheck  
   Fee: None  
   Time: 1/2 hour  

   ---Follow-up appointment(s) scheduled during trial period and warranty.  
   ---Continued consultation regarding hearing aid use and individual's adjustment to amplification.  
   ---Physical inspection of hearing instrument.  
   ---Final purchase decision.

PLEASE NOTE: The Food and Drug Administration recommends that it is in the best interest of a hearing aid  
candidate to be evaluated by a licensed physician (preferably a physician who specializes in diseases of the ear)  
before purchasing a hearing aid. If you are interested in purchasing a hearing aid, please bring this medical  
clearance for hearing aid use with you to your appointment.