

HEARING CARE FOR ALL? CURRENT CHALLENGES

Franki Oliver
Audiology Specialist

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Our Work



- Campaigning
- Information and Support
- Research

What should patients expect from NHS audiology services?



NICE National Institute for Health and Care Excellence

NICE - Hearing aids

“Offer hearing aids to adults whose hearing loss affects their ability to communicate and hear, including awareness of warning sounds and the environment, and appreciation of music. Offer 2 hearing aids to adults with aidable hearing loss in both ears.”

NICE - Wax

“Adults with earwax that is contributing to hearing loss or other symptoms, or preventing ear examination or ear canal impressions being taken, have earwax removed in primary care or community ear care services.”



North Staffordshire CCG hasn't provided NHS hearing aids to adults with mild to moderate hearing loss since 2015. This forces people in the area to buy expensive hearing aids from private providers, or do without.



We've used the structures of the 2012 Health and Social Care Act focusing on the responsibilities of CCGs and the accountability mechanisms it contains:

- Clinical Guidance
- Local Need
- Local Authority Oversight

North Staffordshire CCG will reinstate the provision of hearing aids for patients with moderate hearing loss – but no move on mild hearing loss

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OUR CAMPAIGN

**HANDS OFF OUR
HEARING AIDS!**

Dangerous Precedent

Only North Staffordshire CCG has cut hearing aids

12 other CCGs have proposed rationing – but have not gone through with the policy, yet!

Heightened concern that North Staffordshire's 'mild' policy might be more acceptable to other commissioners



A growing problem

Before Covid-19 we were aware of some CCGs refusing to provide wax removal on the NHS

This is now a growing problem with inappropriate advice from GPs, including:

- Sent for private removal £50+
- Advised to use DIY kits
- Sent to ENT or Audiology Departments

All in contradiction to the NICE guidance



**Wax removal
services**

Take action if NHS ear wax removal services aren't available in your area

1. Mapping the extent of the problem and the alternative provision that
2. Suggested letter for those worried about wax removal – for them to send to their MPs highlighting the worrying advice that DHSC has provided

rnid.org.uk/ear-wax-removal

WHAT CAN WE DO?

Parliamentarians

- Upcoming health legislation – fundamental questions about the accountability of CCGs and the 'optional' status of NICE guidance in the commissioning system
- We are happy to provide evidence and resources to challenge local issues

Everyone

- Wax page
- Get in contact where you experience poor local services
- Sign up to our Campaigns Network to get updates and actions

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