

Procedure funded subject to Audit

Thames Valley Priorities Committee Commissioning Policy Statement

Policy No. TVPC86 Hearing aids for hearing loss in adults

**Recommendation made by
the Priorities Committee:** January 2019

Date of issue: **June 2019**

The Thames Valley Priorities Committee has considered the evidence of clinical and cost effectiveness and NICE Clinical Guideline (NG98) Hearing loss in adults: assessment and management¹.

The Committee supports the provision of hearing aids for patients with hearing loss of >25db where hearing loss affects their ability to communicate and hear, including awareness of warning sounds and the environment and appreciation of music.

Two hearing aids should be offered to adults with aidable hearing loss in both ears. It should be explained to patients that wearing two hearing aids can help to make speech easier to understand when there is background noise, make it easier to tell where sounds are coming from and improve sound quality.

This policy does not apply to patients with dementia or those with learning disabilities, for whom hearing aids should be provided in line with NICE guidance.

World Health Organisation grades of hearing impairment

Hearing level is quantified relative to 'normal' hearing in decibels (dB), with higher numbers of dB indicating worse hearing. Hearing loss can be graded as follows:

- Normal hearing: less than 25 dB in adults
- Mild hearing loss: 25-39 dB.
- Moderate hearing loss: 40-69 dB.
- Severe hearing loss: 70-94 dB.
- Profound hearing loss: 95+ dB.

¹ [NICE guideline NG98 \(2018\) Hearing loss in adults: assessment and management](#)

NOTES:

- Potentially exceptional circumstances may be considered by a patient's CCG where there is evidence of significant health status impairment (e.g. inability to perform activities of daily living) and there is evidence that the intervention sought would improve the individual's health status.
- This policy will be reviewed in the light of new evidence or new national guidance, e.g., from NICE.
- Thames Valley clinical policies can be viewed at <http://www.fundingrequests.cscsu.nhs.uk/>