# Clinical Hearing Care or Online Hearing Aids



Selecting the most suitable hearing devices for the challenges you experience will reduce frustration and save time and money. When the devices make a meaningful impact in your daily life, you will want to use them.



### **Clinical Hearing Care**

Professional assessments and support to treat and manage hearing loss, including prescribing hearing aids and programming the devices to the wearer.



### **Online Hearing Aids**

Devices designed to provide general amplification and can be purchased in store or online without professional assessments and fitting.

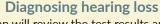
## **Hearing Tests**

Comprehensive hearing assessment A regulated clinician will inspect the external, middle, inner ears and the auditory nerve.



#### Simple hearing test

Unregulated online services only check how loud you need sounds in order to hear them, and there is no analysis of your ear's structure or function.

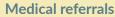


A clinician will review the test results and seek a diagnosis for the type of hearing loss.



#### No hearing loss diagnosis

The simple hearing test cannot indicate the type of hearing loss.



If necessary, a clinician can refer you to a medical specialist.



#### No referrals

Even if you need it, online services cannot refer you for medical attention.

### **Professional Support**

#### Regulated and certified

Clinicians are either Hearing Aid Practitioners or Audiologists, including Doctors of Audiology.



#### Unregulated and not certified

Professional oversight and certification are not required in online services.



Education in hearing aid technology and audiology varies from 2 to 11 years.



#### Medical expertise not required

If any, there is only generic and basic attention to your medical needs.

### **Hearing Aids & Technology**

#### **Evidence-based recommendations**

Hearing professionals use research and diagnostics to recommend the best devices to your specific needs.



#### Generic technology

The options are intended to work with the largest group of people, not to your specific needs.

#### Proper fitting and verification

Hearing aids are fitted using specialized equipment to confirm they match your hearing loss prescription.



### No fitting and verification

Online devices are usually fitted using a do-it-yourself approach and are seldom validated.

#### Real ear measurements

This specialized procedure ensures your hearing aids are properly adjusted while you are wearing them.



### No real ear measurements

There are no clinical assessments to verify the devices are properly set up and working as expected.

#### **Convenient maintenance and repairs**

Clinics provide in-house maintenance, updates, cleaning and minor repairs, usually for free.



#### Mail-in repairs

Maintenance and cleaning are self-serve, and devices need to be shipped to be serviced or repaired.

#### Hearing devices that make a difference

While clinical hearing instruments cost more up front, the goal is to identify devices that you will want to use because they are effective.



#### Inexpensive but less effective

Amplifiers and hearing aids sold online or through a referral service cost less but are not set up for proper auditory stimulation.



