

If you have never visited a hearing care professional, you probably don't know what to expect. A hearing consultation is an interesting and informative experience that will provide you with a better understanding of your hearing. It is your first important step towards better life-long hearing. Hearing loss is a normal part of life and virtually all of us will take this step at some point.

### **How do I know if I need a diagnostic evaluation?**

If you have experienced any of the following symptoms, you should obtain a full diagnostic assessment:

- Noticeable difficulty following conversational speech either in quiet or noisy situations.
- Sudden hearing loss with or without vertigo (dizziness)
- Significant hearing difference (asymmetry) between your ears (i.e. you have one ear that is significantly better than the other)
- Tinnitus
- Dizziness
- History of ear infections, surgery, or draining ear(s)
- Plugged or full feeling ears

### **What can I do to prepare for my visit with an audiologist?**

- Bring any previous test results with you. This can help the audiologist to determine whether your hearing has changed or whether it has remained stable.
- You are welcome to bring a friend or family member to the appointment.

### **What can I expect during my first appointment?**

We will invite you to discuss your "hearing history." The aim of this is to understand what factors have influenced your hearing and to learn about your personal hearing needs. No one hears sound the same way, and no two lifestyles are the same. We will discuss situations where you have difficulty understanding conversation and provide reasonable expectations for improvement.

We will administer a comprehensive assessment of your hearing ability, your speech understanding ability, and the health of your outer, middle ear, and inner ear. This type of test typically takes approximately one hour, depending on the degree and type of your hearing loss.

### **What are the associated fees?**

The fee for a Diagnostic Hearing Assessment is \$45.

The Medical Services Plan (MSP) of British Columbia does not cover the cost of hearing assessments unless performed at a hospital, ENT clinic, public health unit. All other tests are subject to a charge, at the discretion of the clinic. 'Free' hearing tests are normally, in fact, hearing screenings.