

Hearing Aid Dispenser

Practical Test Procedures

THIS INFORMATION SHEET MAY NOT BE USED DURING YOUR TEST

The following is a description of the testing procedures you will be asked to perform and the order of required performance. This order is not necessarily the same as would be performed during an actual audiometric examination. Please note that the model that you bring will be used only for Part II of the test but should accompany you to the exam site. It is your responsibility to fully explain the earmold impression procedures to your model prior to the exam. The Department of State Test Administrator will make sure your model is comfortable until called upon.

PART I - AUDIOMETRIC EXAMINATION (30 minutes)

You will be conducting an audiometric examination on a Department of State examiner. You are to assume that the examiner is a client who has been examined by a physician and has received a written referral to see you for a possible hearing aid fitting because of a hearing loss that cannot be treated medically. The examiner will arrange the seating to accommodate being able to rate your performance while taking the various tests you will perform. However, in all other aspects of this portion of the examination, you should treat the examiner as if he or she is an average client that you are evaluating for possible fitting. Be sure to record your results from each test on your audiogram form and, when appropriate, give instructions and explanations to the examiner as if you are testing a client who has no special knowledge in the subject area.

When instructed to begin the test, you should give the examiner copies of your two word lists. You should then:

Step 1 Set up your audiometer, implements, and any supplies necessary to perform the audiometric portion of the test. For examination purposes, you will **NOT** be required to disinfect your work surface. Assume that the work surface has already been disinfected for the day but, for infection control purposes, place any instruments that you would normally place only on a disinfected surface on paper toweling you have provided.

The examiner will then adjust your audiometer so that the speech audiometer is out of calibration. When instructed to do so, you should:

Step 2 Manually recalibrate your audiometer for appropriate speech testing.

When the examiner has checked your calibration and you are told to continue, you should:

Step 3 Sanitize your hands and perform an otoscopic inspection of the examiner's ears.

When you have completed your otoscopic inspection, you should:

Step 4 Perform a test of Pure Tone Air Conduction in both ears using a continuous tone. Use appropriate masking only if indicated by your results. NOTE: Plateau method **MUST** be used if masking is necessary.

When the examiner has reviewed your audiogram form and you are told to continue, you should:

Step 5 Test Pure Tone Bone Conduction in both ears. Use appropriate masking only if indicated by your results. NOTE: Plateau method **MUST** be used if masking is necessary.

When the examiner has reviewed your audiogram form and you are told to continue, you should:

Step 6 Test the Speech Reception Threshold of the poorer ear and then calculate the Pure Tone Average.

When the examiner has reviewed your audiogram form and you are told to continue, you should:

Step 7 Test the MCL of the poorer ear. Use appropriate masking only if indicated by your results.

When the examiner tells you to continue, you should:

Step 8 Test the UCL of the poorer ear.

When the examiner has reviewed your audiogram form and you are told to continue, you should:

Step 9 Test the Speech Discrimination of the poorer ear.

When the examiner has finished reviewing your audiogram, you will be asked to describe the type and degree of loss indicated by your results and the appropriate recommendation that should be made to the client.

When instructed to do so, you should then pack up your supplies and equipment. Your otoscope may be left out on the paper toweling for the next portion of the exam. If you are told that the earmold portion of the exam will be in another room, it can be wrapped and carried in the toweling.

PART II - EAR MOLD IMPRESSION (20 minutes)

You will be taking an earmold impression of one of your model's ears. The impression should be suitable for the manufacture of any form of hearing aid, from a CIC to a Full Shell. A Department of State examiner will observe and rate your performance. You should give instructions and explanations to your model as if you are testing a client who has never had an earmold impression taken.

Please note that if the procedure results in any bleeding, you must be prepared to handle and transport contaminated materials in accordance with state and federal regulations. A receptacle for non-contaminated disposables will be provided for your use.

When instructed to begin, you should:

Step 1 Set up your supplies and equipment.

After the examiner has checked your set-up and supplies and you are told to continue, you should:

Step 2 Seat your model and proceed by sanitizing your own hands and performing an otoscopic inspection of the model's ear that will be used for the earmold impression.

When you have completed your otoscopic inspection, you should indicate whether or not it is appropriate to proceed with the earmold impression. The examiner will use your otoscope to inspect your model's ear to be sure that your assessment is correct before proceeding. When you are told to continue, you should:

Step 3 Select and place an appropriately sized ear dam in model's ear.

Tell the examiner when you are satisfied with the placement of the ear dam. The examiner will then inspect the model's ear to be sure of appropriate placement. When you are told to continue, you should:

Step 4 Prepare the impression material.

Step 5 Insert an appropriate amount of material into the model's ear.

While the impression material is setting up, you should proceed by assuming that a hearing aid has been prescribed and your model is back for an initial fitting. The examiner will ask you to provide examples of the types of critical information that you should explain to a client at that time. If you wish, you may bring a hearing aid to use as a visual aid for this portion of the examination.

When you are satisfied that the impression material is ready, you should:

Step 6 Remove the earmold impression; inspect it and then give it to the examiner. Remember to use appropriate infection control procedures when handling the earmold.

You will then be asked to indicate whether or not you feel that your earmold impression is acceptable for submission to a lab for any type of hearing aid, from CIC to Full Shell.

Step 7 If you indicate that your earmold is acceptable, you should immediately perform Step 8.

If you indicate that your earmold is NOT acceptable, you must explain why before proceeding.

Please note: In order to pass the Ear Mold Impression portion of the test, you must produce an acceptable earmold impression or you must be able to recognize and explain the unacceptable characteristics of your earmold.

Step 8 Make a final inspection of the model's ear and then allow the examiner to do so.

When instructed to do so, you should:

Step 9 Clean your work area and pack up your supplies and equipment. At this time you should also give the examiner the plastic bag you brought for storing the ear mold. Your earmold impression will be kept by the Department of State as part of the record of your test results.

The examiner will show you and your model out of the exam room.

You should not ask the examiner about test results. You will receive written notification of your results in 14-21 days.