

## AUDIOLOGY REFERRAL CRITERIA AND PRIORITIES

### STANDARD

- \* TDHB-funded audiology testing services are provided under the MOH service specification, *Community Referred Tests (Hospitals) 2001*
- \* TDHB-funded audiology rehabilitation services (hearing aids) are provided under the MOH Enable/CHAF funding criteria for fully-funded hearing aids.
- \* TDHB-funded audiology assessment and provision of amplification services are provided to babies and pre-school children identified in the UNHSEIP.

### CRITERIA

#### \* A PRIORITIES - URGENT

- Paediatric ENT /GP audiology diagnostic test requests.
- Adult ENT audiology diagnostic test requests.
- Babies referred from the UNHSEIP
  - (Universal Newborn Hearing Screening and Early Intervention Programme.)
  - Note: These babies must be offered an appointment within 3 months of birth

#### \* B PRIORITIES-SEMI - URGENT

- Targeted follow- up babies
- Paediatric audiology diagnostic test requests from other referrers (eg SLT, B4-School programme)
- Therapy/Hearing aids for preschoolers, children and young people up to the age of 21 if in primary, secondary or tertiary education.

#### \* C PRIORITIES - ROUTINE

- Adult GP audiology diagnostic test requests for the following:
  - Sudden hearing loss.
  - Unexplained unilateral hearing loss
  - Any symptoms suggesting serious pathology that may need excluding eg retrocochlear pathology
- Note: (It is recommended that discussion and/or referral from GP to ENT consultant occurs)
- Hearing aids for adults with complex needs aged 16 yrs and over who have:
  - Had severe long term hearing loss since childhood or
  - Had onset of sudden and severe hearing loss during adulthood or
  - A dual disability (such as deaf/blind or hearing loss and intellectual disability)

### EXCLUSIONS: Refer to private Audiology services

- People eligible for funding through ACC.
- People eligible for War Pensions Scheme.
- All adults(non-complex) aged over 16 years who require hearing aids.

### SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- \* Service Specification MOH Community Referred Tests (Hospital )2001
- \* MOH DSS policies and Enable NZ procedures for funding hearing aids:
- \* UNHSEIP Policies and Quality Standards June 2010
  - UNHSEIP National Policy and Quality Standards appendix F
  - Diagnostic and Amplification protocols
- \* Children's Hearing Aid Fund manual

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### AUDIOLOGY SERVICES HEARING TESTS, THERAPY SERVICES & HEARING AIDS REPAIR

TDHB Audiology services are accessed by referral for people who meet TDHB criteria for publically-funded services. For further information telephone 06 753 7748 or visit [www.tdhb.org.nz](http://www.tdhb.org.nz).

For people who do not meet TDHB criteria the following services are available in Taranaki:

**CENTRAL  
AUDIOLOGY**      58 Fulford Street      **NEW PLYMOUTH**  
Ph: 06 7573435      Fax: 06 7573436  
[office@centralaudiology.co.nz](mailto:office@centralaudiology.co.nz)

**AVON MEDICAL CARE CENTRE**  
137 Miranda Street South      **STRATFORD**  
Ph: 06 7655454      Fax: 06 7657900  
[www.avonmedical.co.nz](http://www.avonmedical.co.nz)

**SOUTHCARE**  
41 Hunter Street      **HAWERA**  
Ph: 06 2782180      Fax: 06 2786751  
[admin@southcare.org.nz](mailto:admin@southcare.org.nz)

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**BAY AUDIOLOGY** 174 Powderham Street  
**NEW PLYMOUTH**  
Ph: 06 757 9531      Fax: 06 757 9533  
[michelle.ludi@bayaudiology.co.nz](mailto:michelle.ludi@bayaudiology.co.nz)

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#### **LIFE UNLIMITED**

This is a free Taranaki-wide service for people over 16 years.

Hearing evaluation, information and advice.

New Plymouth clinic days: Mon – Wed

Anita Walthew - Hearing Therapist  
Hearing Therapy Services  
28 Young Street

#### **NEW PLYMOUTH**

Ph: 06 758 3400

Fax: 06 758 3405

[anitaw@life.nzl.org](mailto:anitaw@life.nzl.org)

Note: this is not a comprehensive list and there may be other Taranaki services not listed.