

Patient information

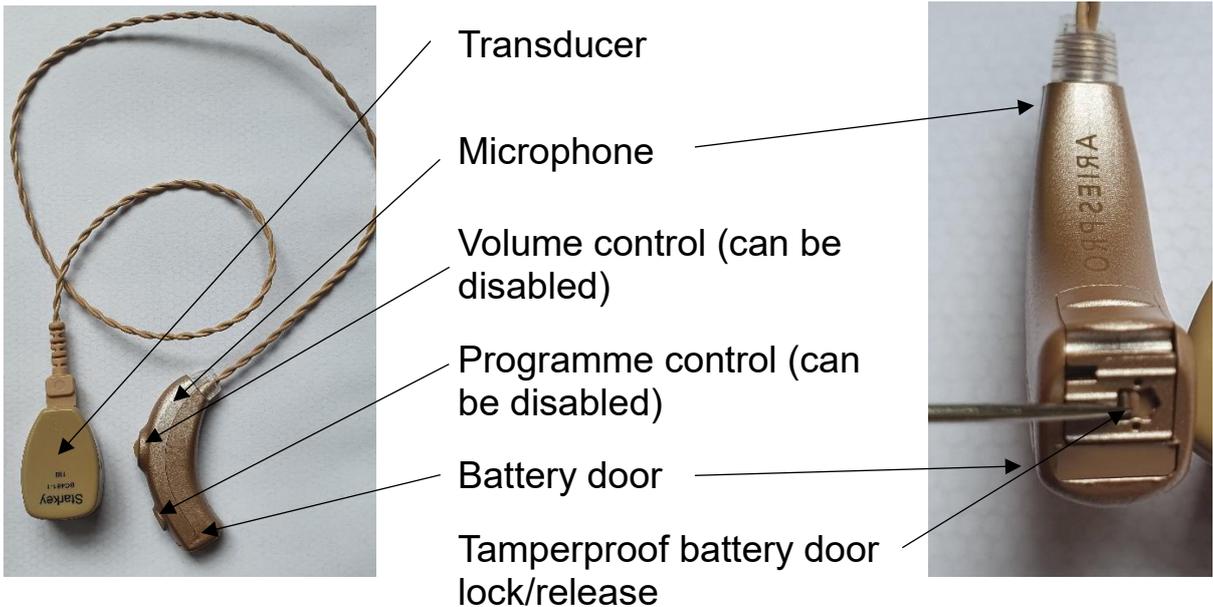
Bone conduction hearing aid

Information for fitting

What is a bone conduction hearing aid?

A bone conduction hearing aid has been recommended for your child as they have a conductive hearing loss, which is affecting their communication. The hearing aid uses a microphone to pick up sound. The hearing aid changes the sound into vibration and the transducer sends this sound to your child's inner ear through their skull.

The benefit of a bone conduction hearing aid is that the device will always be providing optimal sound (will not be too loud or too quiet) regardless of how your child's hearing fluctuates i.e. with colds, ear infections, seasonal changes, improvement in hearing. The different parts of the hearing aid are shown below.



The hearing aid is battery powered. It is recommended that the tamperproof battery lock is used for all children under 5 years of age to ensure the safety of small children.

The hearing aid will be provided on either a hard headband or a soft stretchy material called a softband. Custom made softbands are available to purchase in a selection of colours online. The hearing aid manufacturer recommends softbands produced by malinka: <https://www.malinka.me.uk/starkey>. Please contact your Audiology department if you require any further information.

Correct placement of the hearing aid

The transducer part of the hearing aid should be positioned on the hard bone behind the ear, this bone is called the mastoid. For the hearing aid to work it needs to be flush against the skin behind the ear.

The arrow in the picture below shows the correct placement of the hearing aid transducer when it is attached to a hardband. When a softband is used the transducer sits under the softband material but is still positioned on the mastoid bone.



Ensure that the battery door is locked (if tamperproofing has been activated) prior to placing the hearing aid on your child).

The microphone must not be covered by fabric or hair.

How to use the hearing aid.

Take a battery from the packet and remove the orange sticker. Place the battery into the battery door, take care to ensure that the battery is positioned the correct way up.

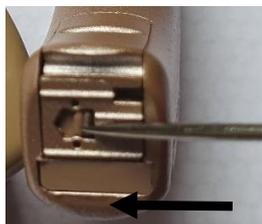


Open battery door with no battery in place

The battery door will not close if the battery is put in the wrong way around and the hearing aid will not work.

Once the battery is in the battery door, close the battery door to switch the hearing aid on. To switch it off simply open the battery door.

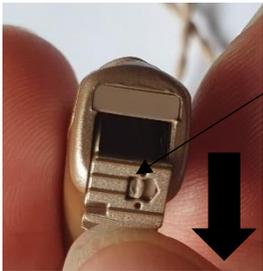
Tamperproofing the battery door is recommended for the safety of all under 5-year olds. In order to activate tamperproofing use the pin provided to slide the lever as shown.



With the battery door closed, use the pin provided to push the lever across the device into the lock position.



The lever has now been moved across and the battery door is locked and safe to use.



To unlock the battery door, use the pin to push the lever back into the original unlocked position. Then use your finger nail to pull the battery door open. The hearing aid is now switched off.

The hearing aid also has a volume control and programme button but in most cases they are deactivated and will not change anything if pressed or knocked.

The settings on your hearing aid are shown below.

Volume control activated Yes No

Additional programmes Yes No

1.....

2.....

Usage

It is recommended that your child wears the hearing aid all of the time that they are awake, ideally 10 - 12 hours per day in order to gain maximum benefit from the device. For new hearing aid users, it may be helpful to distract your child with a toy or activity while putting it on.

If your child frequently removes the hearing aid try to encourage your child to wear it and consistently put the hearing aid back on as soon as possible. Frequently removing the hearing aid can occur while the child is still getting used to wearing the hearing aid.

The hearing aid should not be submerged in water and therefore it should not be worn in the bath, shower or swimming pool. Additionally, it should also be removed overnight while your child is sleeping and when playing in a sandpit or at the beach.

When the hearing aid is not in use it should be kept in a safe place away from small children and animals.

Daily checks

It is recommended that the hearing aid's function is checked daily. When switching the hearing aid on.

1. Cup the transducer in your hand and speak into the microphone, check that the transducer is vibrating. If it is then the hearing aid is working.
2. If it is not vibrating, then replace the battery. If the transducer still does not vibrate when you talk into it then contact the audiology department on 01284 713507.

Batteries

The hearing aid batteries last approximately 7 - 10 days if the hearing aid is worn continually throughout the day. It is recommended that you change the batteries once a week. This is to ensure that the battery does not fail during the day while the child is wearing the hearing aid. It is recommended that the battery door is opened at night or whenever the hearing aid is not being used to preserve the battery for slightly longer.

It is important to keep spare batteries in a safe place away from small children and animals.

Where can I get batteries from?

Batteries are issued free of charge when you present your white battery card at the following locations in Suffolk and Norfolk:

West Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, IP33 2QZ
Audiology reception, Monday to Friday between 9.00am -1.00pm and 2.00pm - 4.30pm

Sudbury Community Health Centre, Church Field Road, Sudbury, Suffolk, CO10 2DZ.
Main reception desk, Monday to Friday between 9.00am – 5.00pm

Thetford Healthy Living Centre, Croxton Road, Thetford, Norfolk, IP24 1JD
Main reception desk, Monday to Friday between 9.00am – 5.00pm

The following GP practices also provide batteries:

Botesdale, Back Hills, Botesdale, IP22 1DW

Diss Parish Fields Practice, Mount Street, Diss, IP22 4WG

Glensford Surgery, Lion Road, Glensford, CO10 7RF

Ixworth Surgery, Peddlers Close, Ixworth, IP31 2HD

Long Melford Practice, Cordell Road, Long Melford, CO10 9EP

Mildenhall Market Cross, 7 Market Place, Mildenhall, IP28 7EG

Stow Health, Violet Hill Road, Stowmarket, Suffolk, IP14 1NL

Wickhambrook Surgery, Boyden Close, Wickhambrook, CB8 8XU

Woolpit health centre, Heath Road, Woolpit, IP30 9QU

Batteries can also be supplied at numerous locations across Suffolk and Norfolk via the Norfolk Deaf Association and Suffolk Hearing advisory service, information on the locations and times can be found on their websites; <http://www.shas.org.uk/hearing-aid-services/suffolk2>
<https://www.norfolkdeaf.org.uk>

Lost aids

If the hearing aid is lost or damaged please contact the Audiology department on 01284 713507 as soon as possible to arrange repair or replacement.

Your responsibilities

Please remember that the hearing aid is an expensive piece of NHS equipment which needs to be looked after responsibly. The hearing aid is on a temporary loan to you and when your child no longer needs the hearing aid you will be required to return it to the West Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust so that it can be reconditioned and then reused.

Useful information

National deaf children society

Helpline (information and support for deaf children and families), t: 0808 800 8800,
w: www.ndsc.org.uk, e: helpline@ndcs.org.uk,

C2Hear

Helpful videos and information about using and maintaining your hearing aids.
w: www.c2hear.online.com

Suffolk Hearing Advisory Service

Voluntary service providing battery collection services in Suffolk.

Tel: 01473 467 785

Website: <http://www.shas.org.uk/hearing-aid-services/suffolk2>

Norfolk Deaf Association

Voluntary service providing battery collection services in Norfolk.

Tel: 01603 404 440

Website: <https://www.norfolkdeaf.org.uk>

Acknowledgements

Audiology Evelina London Children's Hospital for permission to use information from their bone conduction hearing aid leaflet.

If you would like any information regarding access to the West Suffolk Hospital and its facilities please visit the website for AccessAble (the new name for DisabledGo)
<https://www.accessable.co.uk/organisations/west-suffolk-nhs-foundation-trust>



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