



663 County Rd. 17  
Elkhart, IN 46516  
Call: 574-262-3277

## AUDIOLOGY News



### Our Clients Say the Darndest Things!

Recently we decided to make our website more user friendly. To share good information with a friend or family member send them to [www.elkhartaudiology.com](http://www.elkhartaudiology.com) You will find several client videos which share their stories about struggles with hearing loss, the benefits of their hearing aids, and how our process is better than other offices they have visited. ***I promise you will be able to relate, smile, laugh and learn some things.*** We feel very blessed to have you all as part of the EAR family! This time of year, especially, we want to thank you for trusting us with your stories, letting us help make your life better through better hearing and for sharing your success stories with others. When you encourage others to address their hearing needs, you allow us to grow and help others stay active in our community. Thank You!

### What is a Blog?

It is simply new information provided on a regular basis on the internet. Mine highlights how your hearing and different health conditions are connected. It appears each month on our website under the Resources Tab and labeled Audiology Blog. If you are on Facebook, like our page and you will find the monthly blog and other hearing related tips, tricks, and chuckles. If something is helpful to you-Like and Share it so the information is easy for your friends and family to see. If you have an email address, the Blog piece will show up in your mailbox once a month. We are happy to add contacts to our email list even when they aren't a client so please feel free to call the office or send us an email with an address. If you aren't connected to the web we always have the latest handout available at the office. Stop in and get one. **Our goal is to educate and advocate.**

*Blessings,  
Sharon & Deb*

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# TIME FOR A Hearing Test?

## Do You Need a New Hearing Test?

Hearing tests for the purpose of purchasing or adjusting hearing aids are not covered by most insurance but a diagnostic hearing evaluation to determine if your health maybe impacting your hearing or need further medical intervention should be covered. We see many patients with uncontrolled diabetes, receiving chemo treatments or struggling with balance issues that benefit from regular testing and then re-programming to help maintain good hearing.

If it has been more than 3 years since your last test or you have had health issues that may impact your hearing, discuss your concerns with your doctor and if appropriate a referral for further diagnostic testing can be made.

## Insurance, Medicare and Medicare Replacement Plan Changes

It is that time of year where we can get both good and bad news regarding healthcare coverage and the costs associated with them. We want to remind you we participate in many plans and will also match many discounts offered through your carriers.

If you have a question about a hearing aid benefit PLEASE give us a call and give us the opportunity to clarify coverage. Pit falls to avoid:

- Plans that promise a hearing aid benefit that are only available through mail order. You get no training and cannot verify you are getting all the benefit you need.
- Carriers providing “no name brand” devices only adjustable at certain service centers an hour away. New hearing devices typically require a minimum of 3 visits and the distance will become a hassle and you won’t bother to make the trip.

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# HELPING OTHERS *And More*

## How to help friends and family?

We know not all of you have folks in our area that can benefit from being referred to our office, but you are an expert your friends and family will turn to for hearing aid advice. When they do, be sure to give them more than just the brand name of your hearing aid. Advise them new devices from ANY provider should not have software “locked” which requires them to return to a specific office or part of a chain. We will try to help anyone with hearing aid service needs or fitting adjustments but we are sometimes limited due to software constraints. Another valuable tip is to be sure they can get their new hearing aid fitting verified and adjusted using REAL EAR by their audiologist. It’s the gold standard!

## Planning for new hearing aids?

Hearing aids over 5 years old are heading toward replacement rather than repair. Better options have been released in the last 2 months. \***“Smart APPs”** that allow for **remote hearing aid adjustments** rather than a trip in to the office. \***Automatic tuning to precisely adapt to your listening environment** without pushing buttons. \***True hands-free phone calls** through your hearing aids (the phone can stay in your pocket or on the car seat) and no streamer required around the neck. New circuitry for a more natural own voice.

## Over the Counter Hearing Aids

OTC Legislation was passed July 2017 to allow for low cost, mild gain hearing aids to be sold directly to consumers. We are waiting to see what regulations are put in place to protect consumers and when they will be made available through hearing aid manufactures or electronic/cell phone companies. Current estimates forecast 2-3 years before they will be available; we will keep you updated!

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# HEARING TIPS

## *When In Public*

**Noisy restaurants** can be a challenge even when I have normal hearing so it is very rewarding when we have clients come in and tell us how much they enjoyed their 50th Wedding Anniversary festivities with their new hearing aids! The following day someone else came in expressing just how great program 2 worked to focus on speech at their table while they were at their 60th class reunion. Our favorite quote however is “hot dang” when Maggie heard the TV stream for the first time through her hearing aids!

**Trouble hearing in a place of worship** that uses a PA system? Ask Sharon if you might benefit from a personal loop. The small loop plugs into equipment already at your church and help many hearing aids work better because you lose reverberation and distance.

**Curbside Service!** It is getting to be that time of year again...sleet, snow and icy patches. If you need batteries, have a hearing aid to pick up or drop off, just call ahead and we will be happy to run out to your car window to keep you safe and dry.

## **We are Available 5 days a Week!**

Appointment times are available on **Mondays** from 1-6pm; **Tuesdays** from 8-430; **Wednesdays** 8-430; **Thursdays** 8-6pm and **Fridays** 8-noon.

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SHARON HIRSTEIN, MA, FAAA  
BOARD CERTIFIED AUDIOLOGIST  
[WWW.ELKHARTAUDIOLOGY.COM](http://WWW.ELKHARTAUDIOLOGY.COM)  
PHONE: (574) 262-3277