



Australian Government

HLTAUD012 Prescribe, select and fit hearing devices

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Modification History

Release	Comments
1	This unit of competency was first released in HLT Health Release 10.0.

Application

This unit describes the skills and knowledge required to prescribe and fit hearing devices. It also involves providing follow up services to clients.

This unit applies to audiometrists.

The skills in this unit must be applied in accordance with Commonwealth and State/Territory legislation, Australian/New Zealand standards and industry codes of practice.

Licensing/Regulatory Information

No licensing, legislative or certification requirements apply to this unit at the time of publication.

Pre-requisite unit(s)

No pre-requisite units

Competency field(s)

N/A

Unit sector(s)

Audiometry

Elements and Performance Criteria

Element	Performance criteria
<i>Elements define the essential outcomes</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
1. Determine hearing device requirements	1.1 Interpret outcomes of hearing assessment documentation 1.2 Select style and performance requirements of hearing devices based on hearing assessment, client communication and physical needs

	1.3 Select additional device requirements for optimal acoustic performance and client management needs 1.4 Select acoustic coupling system to meet client needs
2. Take ear impressions	2.1 Follow personal hygiene and infection control, including hand hygiene, correct, use of personal protective equipment (PPE), and safe handling of materials, in accordance with organisational procedures 2.2 Recognise and respond to contraindications to taking ear impressions with otoscopy 2.3 Make referral to other facilities for assessment and treatment 2.4 Select otoblock size based on client ear canal anatomy and needs 2.5 Prepare mould material according to manufacturer instructions 2.6 Conduct ear impression procedure safely according to organisational procedures 2.7 Adapt ear impression processes based on current and emerging technologies 2.8 Examine ear impressions for defects and take new impression to address identified defects 2.9 Determine modifications required for a comfortable insertion and fit 2.10 Examine ear condition post impression to confirm it is free from obstruction, damage or abnormalities 2.11 Package ear impressions according to organisational procedures and send to ear mould manufacturer
3. Prepare for fitting	3.1 Prepare information and required documentation for hearing aid fitting 3.2 Prepare the environment for hearing aid fitting 3.3 Perform equipment checks and ensure calibration requirements are met 3.4 Check and confirm personal protective equipment is available for use
4. Fit hearing aids	4.1 Fit hearing aids according to manufacturer instructions and industry best practice including recognised fitting formulae 4.2 Assess occlusion effect and make modifications to minimise its effects including using venting systems 4.3 Determine acceptable power output and evaluate in consultation with the client

	4.4 Assess hearing device for acoustic feedback and take action to minimise its effects 4.5 Check device connectivity settings according to manufacturer instructions and client needs 4.6 Clean and store equipment and attachments according to manufacturer instructions and infection control procedures
5. Verify and validate fitting	5.1 Evaluate acoustic performance of hearing aids against prescriptive targets 5.2 Adjust hearing aids in consultation with client to support the acclimatisation process and optimise listening comfort 5.3 Validate client hearing performance in line with client's goals and needs using a range of validation tools
6. Complete and manage documentation	6.1 Complete and store client documentation according to organisational procedures 6.2 Determine and document expected short and long term outcomes based on client's goals
7. Follow up client	7.1 Organise client follow up according to organisational procedures 7.2 Verify and validate success of fitting and modify electroacoustic parameters to meet client needs

Foundation skills

The foundation skills essential to performance of this unit, but not explicit in the performance criteria are listed here, along with a brief context statement.

Skill	Description
Reading	- interprets organisational procedures related to prescribing, selecting and fitting hearing devices. - Interprets manufacturer instructions for hearing devices.
Writing	- writes concise and clear summaries for referrals and reports. - maintains client records in line with documentation standards.
Oral communication	- uses clear, respectful language to explain fitting procedures and obtain informed consent. - uses active listening and questioning techniques to clarify client expectations and concerns.
Numeracy	interprets measured values and threshold levels.

Learning	· retrieves and evaluates information sources. · operates and monitors equipment safely and efficiently. · reflects on own practice and modify approach as needed.
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Range of conditions

N/A

Assessment Requirements for HLTAUD012 Prescribe, select and fit hearing devices

Performance Evidence

The candidate must show evidence of the ability to complete tasks outlined in elements and performance criteria of this unit, manage tasks and manage contingencies in the context of the job role. There must be evidence that the candidate has:

- followed established procedures and protocols to reliably and accurately dispense a diverse range of hearing devices to at least 20 different individuals, including:
 - performed objective acoustic measurements to accurately analyse acoustic performance against prescriptive targets
 - analysed noise reduction, directionality, feedback mechanism and feature performance
 - modified acoustic coupling features to achieve real ear prescription targets and improve listening comfort
 - varied characteristics of devices to achieve real ear prescription targets and improve listening comfort
 - assessed subjective comfort, sound clarity and quality, occlusion, feedback, loudness comfort, and supported acclimatisation requirements

Knowledge Evidence

The candidate must be able to demonstrate essential knowledge required to effectively complete tasks outlined in elements and performance criteria of this unit, manage tasks and manage contingencies in the context of the work role. This includes knowledge of:

- national and state/territory legal and ethical requirements for hearing aid dispensing, including:
 - duty of care
 - informed consent
 - privacy, confidentiality and disclosure
 - codes of conduct of registering bodies
 - policy frameworks and government programs
 - work role boundaries, criteria for referral
- current range of available hearing devices, their performance features and suitability for different client needs
- linear and non-linear amplification systems and the principles of the recognised prescription formula for both linear and non-linear hearing devices
- features of digitally programmable and digital hearing devices and their effect on the amplification provided, including:

- compression ratio
 - compression threshold and knee point
 - multi-channel compression
 - directional and omni-directional microphones
 - feedback management and cancellation systems
 - noise suppression systems
 - wireless and Bluetooth features and devices
 - other emerging technologies
- ear mould acoustics, including venting and tubing, mould materials and their effect on hearing device prescription
- occlusion effect and strategies to manage the same
- client acclimatisation process and strategies
- how electro-acoustic properties and features interact with each other and the human ear
- test box measurements and interpretation of 2cc coupler data
- strategies to resolve problems encountered in hearing device fitting according to industry best practice
- alternative devices to support client education and referral decisions, including:
 - cochlear implants
 - bone anchored devices
 - other emerging devices
- contemporary validation and verification tools

Assessment Conditions

The following conditions must be met for this unit:

- use of suitable facilities, equipment and resources, including:
 - objective acoustic measurement equipment and software
 - programming interfaces
 - manufacturer's software
 - Noah software or equivalent
 - manufacturer instructions
 - clinical setting designed to meet acoustic standards
 - repair and modification equipment
 - organisational procedures relevant to prescribing, selecting and fitting hearing devices

- hearing assessment documentation
- modelling of industry operating conditions, including:
 - integration of problem solving activities
 - provision of services to individuals with varied needs

Assessors must satisfy the current Standards for Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) /AQTF mandatory competency requirements for assessors.

Mandatory Workplace Requirements

Assessment of performance evidence may be in a workplace setting or an environment that accurately represents a real workplace.

Unit Mapping Information

Previous Code and Title	Equivalence	Comments
HLTAUD005 Dispense hearing devices	Not equivalent	Change in unit outcome. Major changes in unit application, elements and performance evidence. Foundation skills added.

Links

Companion volumes, including implementation guides, are found on the national training register - <https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=ced1390f-48d9-4ab0-bd50-b015e5485705>.