

How to Choose a Hearing Aid

Differences Between Prescription and Over-the-Counter Hearing Aids

Prescription and Over-the-Counter Hearing Aids

You have many choices you can explore to improve your hearing. However, the many kinds of hearing aids can seem overwhelming. Here is more information to help you make a decision on which hearing aid will work best for you.

Prescription hearing aids

Prescription hearing aids treat many types and levels of hearing loss and medical ear issues. They are recommended if you have any level of hearing loss. You will work with a licensed

audiologist to determine what device will work best for your hearing loss, personal needs and lifestyle.

Allina Health does dispense prescription hearing aids.

Over-the-counter (OTC) hearing aids

OTC hearing aids work best if you feel you have a mild to moderate hearing issue and no other medical ear issues. Over-the-counter hearing aids are fit, programmed and cared for by you.

Differences	Prescription	Over-the-Counter
How to purchase	Prescribed by a licensed audiologist based on an audiology evaluation. Available through Allina Health.	Retail locations or online.
Level of hearing loss	All levels of hearing loss, from mild to profound.	Works best if you feel you have a mild to moderate hearing problem.
How to program	A licensed audiologist will fit, program and follow-up with any questions and needs.	Fit and program yourself with a smartphone app.
Technology	Advanced technology treats more types and levels of hearing loss.	Simple technology is self-fit and self-programmed.
Appearance	Personalized fit. Custom-built to your ear.	Range of sizes and styles.
Who can use	Any age, any type of hearing issue.	18 years and older without complex ear conditions.
Other	Audiologist available to problem-solve technical issues.	Virtual follow up and support is usually available.