

Tips for Talking with Your Hearing Care Provider

When you and your hearing provider work together as a team and communicate well, you'll feel more confident about your treatment plan — and you'll get better care.

Inform your Hearing Provider about your combined hearing and vision loss:

Provide specific information about your visual diagnosis, current status and prognosis.

This information will likely impact the recommendations your hearing care provider will make.

Plan ahead to make the most of your appointments:

Working together is all about good communication. There's nothing wrong with asking lots of questions! Remember, it's your provider's job to answer them.

But since it's easy to forget what you wanted to ask during an appointment, plan ahead and write down your questions before you meet.

Ask questions — and keep asking until you understand:

Your provider needs to listen carefully to your questions and concerns — and you need to make sure you understand exactly

what your doctor tells you about your eye health, your treatment plan, and what you need to do next. Take a look at these questions you may want to ask.

Questions about your condition:

- What condition do I have?
- What causes this condition?
- Will it affect my hearing, now or in the future?
- Do I need to make any changes to my everyday life?
- Are there any symptoms I need to watch for? What do I need to do if I notice those symptoms?
- Can you give me some information about my condition to take home with me?
- How will my vision loss impact my treatment plan and or the devices I use.

Questions about tests:

- Do I need any tests?
- What do you want to find out from the test?
- When will I get my test results?
- Does the test have any risks or side effects?
- Will I need more tests later?

Questions about hearing aids and assistive listening devices:

- What hearing aids do you recommend for me and why?
- What assistive listening devices do you recommend to pair with the hearing aids, and why?
- Are there other treatment options?
- **Please email me the instruction manuals for the hearing aids, assistive listening devices, and their apps.** (This is

important for access with a combined hearing and vision loss.)

Keep track of what you learned during your appointment

To help you remember everything your doctor tells you:

- **Take notes during your appointment.** You can write down your notes or record your conversation with your cell phone so you can listen to it later.
- **Ask a friend or family member to come with you to the appointment.** They can take notes, help you ask questions, or just be there to listen and support you.
- **Ask your provider to write down the main points from the visit.** They may also be able to print instructions or other important information for you.

Additional Resources:

- [Hearing Loss Checklist](#)
- [Consumers and Patients - The American Academy of Audiology](#);
- [5 Ways to Make the Most of Your Doctor Visit](#)