

Preferred Post

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Hearing Aids for Your Injured Worker at Significant Savings



With approximately 30 million workers exposed to hazardous noise on the job, noise-induced hearing loss is one of the most common occupational diseases and is recognized as a

priority concern by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). Estimated at a national cost of \$242.4 million per year in workers compensation disability costs alone, hearing aids add to this fiscal impact with a \$1,500 average device cost and \$300 per year in batteries. And you can depend on Preferred Medical Network to supply quality hearing aids and batteries well below retail costs for your injured worker.

Hearing aids can improve hearing by amplifying sound, allowing a person with hearing loss to communicate and participate more fully in their

everyday activities. Amplification is also impacted by the device type, which falls into three basic styles noted in the table below.

Hearing aids are made with one of two types of electronics; analog and digital. Analog units are typically less expensive than digital, and often come with programmable features that the user can adjust based on their environment. Digital aids process more information about the sound pitch and volume, allowing increased flexibility in adjusting the aid to the environment. Digital aids can also be programmed to focus on sounds coming from a specific direction.

Style	Level of hearing loss	Age groups	Fit
Behind-the-ear (BTE)	Mild to profound	All ages	Behind the ear and custom-molded to inside the outer ear or "open-fit" with small tube inside the outer ear
In-the-ear (ITE)	Mild to severe	Not for young children	Inside the outer ear
Canal	Mild to moderately severe (not recommended for severe to profound)	Not for young children	Custom in-the-canal (ITC) or completely-in-canal (CIC)

Did you know...

that the recent generations of hearing aids that are much smaller, better at directional amplification and less expensive owe their creation to scientists studying a fly? Cornell professor and bioacoustic expert Ronald R. Hoy studied the *Ormia ochracea* fly since it demonstrated unparalleled sound localization. Humans, agreed to be the top species in directional hearing, owe their skill to the amount of distance between the ears. The *Ormia*, however, matches human skill with a tiny fraction of space.

Preferred Medical Network offers complete supplies and equipment to help injured workers recover. Contact us to discover the products and savings we can offer you.

**Preferred Medical Network • 309 Towne Park Circle #100 • Louisville, Kentucky 40243
888.586.4650 • Fax 502.489.5045 • www.preferredmedical.net**