

B Inclusion Criteria

AQP Referrals: (County and Cannock Hospitals only)

- Over 18years old
- Ears clear of wax
- Suspected bilateral symmetrical hearing loss

Complex Hearing Service (County, Cannock and Royal Stoke Hospitals)

- Has asymmetrical/unilateral hearing loss
- Has bilateral, unilateral or pulsatile tinnitus
- Is struggling to communicate with routine hearing aids
- Is struggling to follow conversation at loud voice levels without hearing aids

Exclusion criteria

- Persistent pain affecting either ear (defined as earache lasting more than 7 days in the past 90 days before appointment);
- History of discharge other than wax from either ear within the last 90 days
- Fluctuating hearing loss, other than associated with colds
- Vertigo (Vertigo is classically described hallucination of movement, but here includes dizziness, swaying or floating sensations that may indicate otological, neurological or medical conditions)
- Any neurological signs and symptoms.
- Bilateral pulsatile tinnitus.

C Onward Referral

See Doc 2

D Referral back to GP

- Patients with ear wax blocking external auditory canal
- Patients with normal hearing
- Patients who decline a hearing aid

F Tinnitus

- Tinnitus service accepts patients with bilateral bothersome, unilateral, asymmetrical or pulsatile tinnitus. Patients are triaged via phone call to ensure that they meet the above criteria. They are then booked into a 60 minute appointment. They have a hearing assessment and 'Tinnitus Handicap Inventory (THI) questionnaire. They receive advice and basic counselling and if applicable rehabilitation via hearing aids/masking devices. Patients with significant distress or requiring more in depth counselling are identified via the THI and are referred to the Hearing Therapist for additional rehabilitation.

Patients with the following are referred for imaging: Unilateral or asymmetrical, or unilateral, pulsatile tinnitus lasting more than 5 minutes at a time.

The exclusion criterion for this service is the same as for AQP criteria. Also excluded is non-bothersome bilateral symmetrical tinnitus. Patients with bilateral pulsatile tinnitus are referred to ENT.

H Asymmetric Hearing Loss

- Asymmetrical hearing loss clinic accepts patients with asymmetrical hearing as defined by their GP. Patients are booked into a 60minute appointment. They have a hearing assessment and if necessary receive advice on rehabilitation options.

Patients with the following are referred for imaging: Unilateral or asymmetrical sensori-neural hearing loss, defined as a difference between the left and right bone conduction thresholds of 15 dB or greater (20 dB with mixed hearing loss) in at least two or more adjacent frequencies at: 500, 1000, 2000 or 4000 Hz.

3a) section 12 exemption as detailed in attached letter

3b) as Answer 3a

3c) As 3a.

4a) This information is not kept as we would not diagnose a noise induced hearing loss

4b) as Answer 3a.

4c) As above.

FOI ref 558-1819 final