**Module 4 summary**

# Hearing Aid Management

Daily care of NHS and privately supplied hearing aids, from telling left from right and putting them in, to cleaning, charging, storage and preventing loss.

## Key points

- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions and the resident's individual care plan for their make and model.
- Behind-the-ear (BTE) aids use a tube and earmould. Receiver-in-canal (RIC) aids have a thin wire and a dome. In-the-ear (ITE) aids are custom-made shells.
- Red usually means right and blue means left. Check the marking every time.
- Record who supplied each hearing aid (NHS service or private provider), with contact details, in the care plan or hearing passport.
- Check daily that hearing aids are clean, working, comfortable and in the right ears.
- Never use water or alcohol on the hearing aid itself. Keep tubing clear and dry, and report hard, yellow or split tubing.
- Charge rechargeable aids overnight. For battery aids, use the right size and open the battery door at night.
- Hearing aid batteries are dangerous if swallowed. Store them safely; a swallowed battery is an emergency.
- Keep hearing aids in a labelled case in an agreed place. Check bedding, trays and clothing before laundry.

## Get help when

- The hearing aid still does not work after basic checks – contact the NHS audiology service or private provider who supplied it.
- Pain, soreness or discharge where the hearing aid sits – take it out and contact the GP or nurse.
- A resident may have swallowed a hearing aid battery – call 999 or go to A&E immediately.
- A hearing aid is lost – search, complete an incident form and contact the supplier.

In an emergency call 999. For urgent advice contact the GP or NHS 111. Always follow your care home's policies and the resident's care plan.

**Clinical review: pending** — drafted November 2026 from the references listed. Awaiting review by a qualified audiologist.

Full module, quizzes and certificate: https://carehomehearing.org/training/hearing-aid-management/