



Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center Communication Disorders Department - Audiology Policy and Procedure

SUBJECT: BASIC AUDIOLOGIC ASSESSMENT

Policy No.: 405

Supersedes: September 1990

Revision Date: February 2022

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PURPOSE

To outline procedures for a Basic Audiological Assessment.

POLICY

The purpose of a basic audiological assessment is to assess and monitor the status of the patient's peripheral auditory system, which includes the outer, middle and inner ear. The assessment is conducted to quantify and qualify, by site of lesion, peripheral hearing loss on the basis of perceptual, physiologic, or electrophysiological responses to acoustic stimuli and to describe any associated communication disorders. Assessment may result in recommendations for further audiological assessment, medical/educational referral, hearing aid assessment, aural rehabilitation, speech or language assessment, or counseling.

An assessment is conducted in response to a physician order. Assessment is indicated for patients who fail a hearing screening, are suspected to have hearing loss or have a history of a hearing loss.

Basic audiological assessment is conducted according to the Fundamental Components of Preferred Practice Patterns.

PROCEDURES

1. The Basic Audiological Assessment includes the following:

- a. Case history
- b. Otoscopic evaluation
- c. Air conduction and bone conduction pure tone threshold measures with appropriate masking
- d. Speech audiometry: speech recognition thresholds or detection with appropriate masking and word recognition measures with appropriate masking.

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- e. Tympanometry, static immittance measurements
- f. Behavioral observation of speech and language status

2. Patients with identified hearing loss:

- a. Receive follow-up services to monitor audiological status and to ensure appropriate treatment.
- b. Referred to other professionals, vendors or agencies for consultation and management (e.g. **ENT**, hearing aid vendor).

3. Assessments are conducted with calibrated acoustic stimuli (e.g. pure tones, broadband noise). Electroacoustic equipment and ambient noise meet ANSI and manufacturer's specifications.

4. For documentation procedures and forms refer to Policy 417 and 418.

Sources:

Preferred Practice Patterns, for the, Profession of Audiology. Approved by the ASHA December 21, 2006.

Guidelines for manual puretone threshold audiometry. ASHA,20, 297-301.

American National Standards Institute (1977), Criteria for permissible ambient noise during audiometric testing. ANSI S3.1 - 1977. New York: American National Standards.

American National Standards Institute (1989). American national standard specification for audiometers. ANSI S3.6- 1989. New York: American National Standards Institute.