



## New Over-the-Counter (OTC) Hearing Aids

*What's it all about?*

### Prescription Hearing Aids

**Fit By: Licensed Audiologist**

**Cost: \$600 - \$3200 each**

**Age: Any**

**Hearing loss confirmed and measured, with medical referral if necessary**

**Hearing Loss Severity: All degrees**

**Design: Includes customized options**

**Return Policy: mandated by state law**

**Verification of Amplification: Real Ear measurements to ensure appropriate level of sound**

**Hearing Aid Lifetime: 5 - 7 years with high reliability with professional care and maintenance**

**Software adjustment of hearing aids by audiologist to maintain audibility as hearing changes**

**Device Care and Assistance: Orientation and care from audiologist**

### OTC Hearing Aids

**Fit By: Self**

**Cost: \$500 - \$1000 each**

**Age: 18+**

**Hearing loss determined by self-perception only**

**Hearing Loss Severity: self-perceived mild to moderate only**

**Design: One size fits many**

**Return Policy: no requirement included in FDA guidelines**

**Verification of Amplification: none**

**Hearing Aid Lifetime: unknown, with unknown reliability**

**Manual adjustment of hearing aids with self-perceived hearing changes**

**Device Care and Assistance: Instruction manual**