

Hearing loss in adults

How can you suspect hearing loss in an adult?

A person with hearing loss will:

- Not respond when called to or may respond inappropriately.
- Speak much louder than usual.
- Have difficulty talking over the phone.
- Become withdrawn, quiet and isolated.
- Turn up the volume to hear the TV or listen to music.
- Report that he can hear but cannot make out what is being said/ 'I can hear you talking but don't know what you're saying', or that others are mumbling.
- Have unclear speech.
- Have difficulty in hearing high frequency sounds like doorbells or telephone ringing.
- Complain of a ringing sound in the ear (tinnitus).
- Have a history of ear discharge.

Common causes include:



Loud sounds (prolonged noise exposure)



Certain **medicines** can damage hearing



Injury to head or ears



Untreated, prolonged **ear infections or ear diseases**

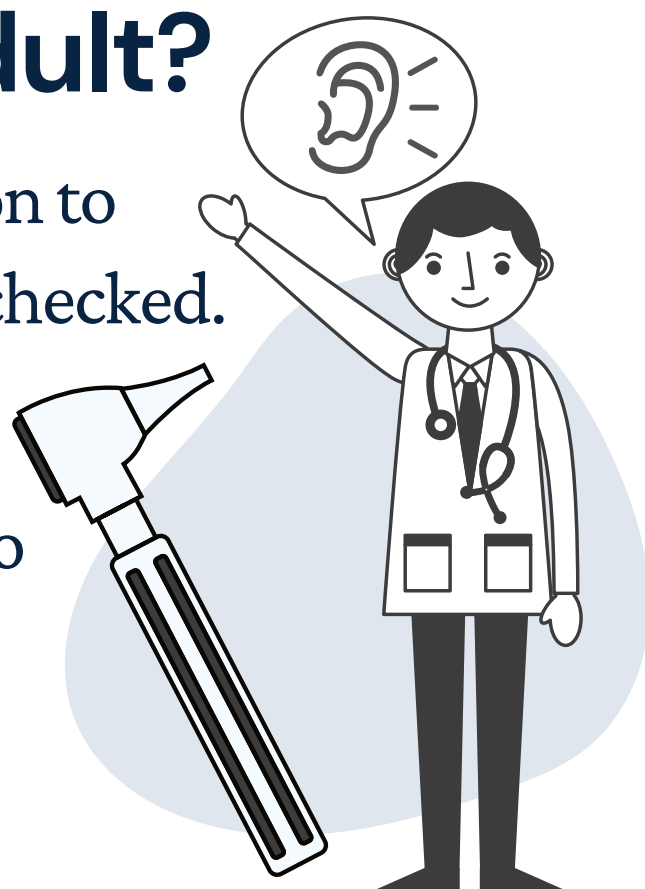


Age-related hearing loss: About one in three people **older than 65 years** have age-related hearing loss.

What to do when you suspect hearing loss in an adult?

Encourage the person to get his/her hearing checked.

Speak to your GP who may refer you to an audiologist for a hearing test.



What can be done if hearing loss is identified?

It is important to identify what the cause of hearing loss is and address it.

Adults with hearing loss are likely to benefit from use of devices, such as hearing aids.

Adults also benefit from aural rehabilitation and support to get the maximum value from their hearing.

