Battery
- These should last for up to three weeks
- They need to be checked daily (you can do this by switching the hearing aid on)
- If the hearing aid is provided by the NHS you will need to keep your old battery to exchange it for a new one. (You should have a brown record book if the NHS has provided the aid)
- You can send the batteries back in a pack of six to the hospital and they will send new ones within a week

Hearing aid you put behind the ear
You need the hearing aid in your hand
On top of the aid you will see three letters:
- O  Off
- T  Loop
- M  On
When you switch the hearing aid on it should whistle
If it does not then:
- Check the mould for wax - usually in the hole at the top of the mould
- If there is wax, remove the mould from the aid and hold it under hot running water to flush out the wax
- To make sure the mould is dry blow through the tube and reconnect it back to the aid and switch on
- If it whistles it is working
- If not, change the battery
Then try again

Battery
- This is in a holder at the end of the hearing aid
- To take it out you must either lift the holder up or pull it open (depending on which type you have)
- A new battery will have a ‘tab’ on it

This literature is produced as an acknowledgement of the life and work of Desmond and Hildergard Atherton. Desmond worked as a GP in Coventry and Hildergard was a founder Trustee of Coventry Churches Housing Association (now Touchstone Housing Association) and The ExtraCare Charitable Trust. Desmond’s strength and patience towards those in his care and Hildergard’s commitment and support to our charity’s work have influenced the development of well-being service that is now benefiting our residents.
Communicating with the hearing impaired

You must:

■ Speak face to face with the person
■ Be at the same level as the person
■ Speak clearly but do not shout
  (Shouting can make the speech distorted and unclear)
■ Speak slightly slower than usual
■ Use different words if the person finds it difficult to understand you
  (Some words are difficult to lip read and others look the same and meanings can be confused)
■ Stand in good light so that the person can see you speak
■ Don't speak whilst you are eating, reading or writing at the same time as this will make lip reading difficult
■ If the person does not understand what you are saying write it down for them

Some common signs of Hearing Impairment:

■ Words are difficult to understand
■ Sounds such as a dripping tap or the high notes of a violin cannot be heard
■ Background noise like hissing or ringing is constantly heard
■ Another person’s speech sounds slurred or mumbled
■ Television programmes, concerts and social events are less enjoyable because much goes unheard

Diagnosis of Hearing Problems

If you are having trouble hearing, see your doctor for treatment or a referral to a hearing specialist. By ignoring the problem, you may be overlooking a serious medical condition.

Hearing impairments may be caused by:

■ Exposure to excessive noise over a long period of time
■ Viral infections
■ Vascular incidents such as heart conditions or strokes
■ Head injuries
■ Certain drugs or medication
■ Age-related changes in the ear
■ Excessive ear wax
■ Hereditary problems

In view of the importance of good hearing, seeking medical help is certainly worthwhile.

Understanding your hearing aid

Hearing aid that you put into your ear

You need the hearing aid in your hand

There is a switch that will control volume and switch the aid On and Off

When you switch it on it should whistle

If it does not then:

■ Check the mould for wax - if there is wax clean with a pin.
  DO NOT USE WATER
■ If there is no wax then change the battery

Then try again.