



ACDHH Position Paper

Issue: Patient-Specific Verification of Hearing Aid Performance

Background: Simulated real ear gain based on average does not well predict gain in an individual's ear. Arizonans who receive hearing aids without verification of the hearing aid's performance in their own ear by the dispensing professional typically receive gain that is not optimal for their hearing loss. Both the American Academy of Audiology and the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association include real ear verification in their preferred practice guidelines. Patients report greater improvement and preference when fit using verification than when fit using quick-fit only.

History: This issue has been discussed broadly in the audiology community and we are not aware of anyone substantially opposed to the concept in principle. Debate regarding the regulatory language can happen at the direction of DHS during the rule writing process, including public comment.

ACDHH Opinion: In order to insure high quality hearing healthcare for people in Arizona with hearing loss, we support in principle the effort to revise the Arizona Department of Health Services rules on hearing aid dispensing to include a mandate for patient-specific verification of hearing aid performance as part of the hearing aid fitting process.

This position paper was adopted by the ACDHH Board of Commissioners as ACDHH's formal opinion on this issue at the Board of Commissioners meeting on Tuesday, October 22nd, 2013.