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Governor

OREGON HEALTH LICENSING AGENCY

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Hearing Aid Sales / Specialists

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Hearing health practitioners who sell, lease or rent hearing aids in conjunction with the evaluation or measurement of human hearing must be authorized by the Oregon Health Licensing Agency (OHLA). Authorized practitioners recommend, select or adapt hearing aids and may alter, adjust or reconstruct hearing aids specifications for functionality, such as taking ear impressions for proper fit.



Qualifications

Any of the following may sell hearing aids if authorized by OHLA:

Hearing aid specialists, as their name implies, specialize in the fitting and sale of hearing aids. They are licensed to practice by OHLA. Specialist trainees must have at least 62 hours of training in theory, including general principles of acoustics and hearing/speech acoustics, audiometric testing and hearing aid standards; and 98 hours of practical, supervised training on testing, earmold impressions, infection control, and hearing aid selection, fitting and follow-up care.

Audiologists are licensed to practice by the Oregon Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology Board. If they sell hearing aids, they must also be licensed by OHLA. Audiologists are required to obtain at least six years of post-secondary education focusing on speech pathology and audiology.

Physicians, such as *otolaryngologists* or ear, nose and throat (ENT) specialists, are licensed to practice by the Oregon Board of Medical Examiners (BME). They, too, must be licensed to sell hearing aids by OHLA. Otolaryngologists regulated by the Oregon Board of Medical Examiners may also dispense hearing aids if they are licensed as hearing aid specialists. They must obtain certification through the American Board of Otolaryngology.

Continuing Education

All licensees submitting application for renewal must have completed 12 contact hours of approved continuing education during the preceding year.

Authorizing Laws & Rules

This program exists under the regulatory oversight of the Oregon Health Licensing Agency (OHLA). Advisory Council on Hearing Aids profession-specific statutes (ORS 694.015-694.185 and 694.991) and rules (OAR 331, Divisions 601-650) link to OHLA's overarching statutes (ORS 676.600-992) and rules (OAR 331, Divisions 1-30) for all OHLA-regulated professions.

For more information, visit www.oregon.gov/OHLA/HAS