



**Education Bureau**

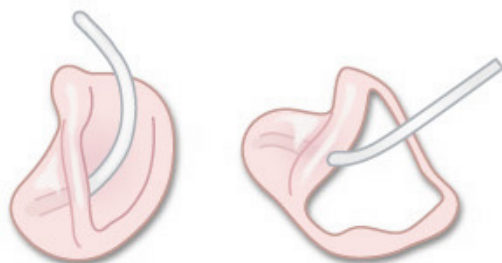
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

AS-10E

# Earmoulds



A hearing aid must be equipped with good quality components as well as a well-fitted earmould to enable effective transmission of amplified sounds to the ear for achieving the best performance of the device.



## Types of Earmoulds

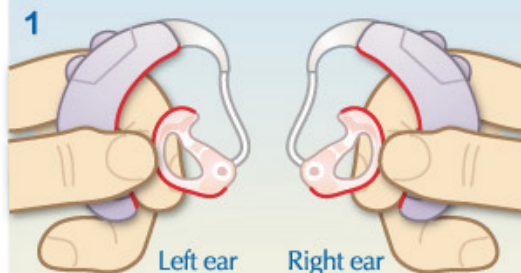
Earmoulds can be of different hardness and styles depending on the materials of which they are made up. Audiologists will recommend a suitable choice of earmoulds based on the degree of hearing impairment and other factors in individual cases. Generally speaking, hard and semi-soft earmoulds are suitable for students with mild to moderately-severe hearing impairment. As for students with severe to profound hearing impairment, soft earmoulds are more suitable.

<b>Style</b>	<b>Shell, Canal, Half Shell, Skeleton etc.</b>
<b>Hardness</b>	<b>Hard, Soft and Semi-soft</b>

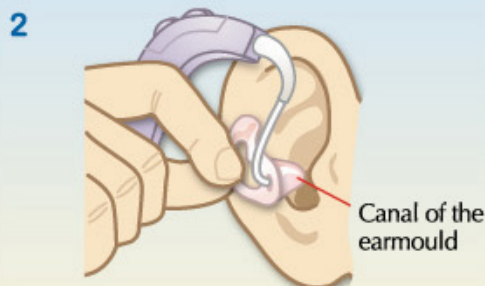
## An ideal earmould

- can secure a hearing aid in position;
- can transmit sound clearly to the ear;
- will not cause high-pitched acoustic feedback;
- should be appealing to users;
- can be worn for a long time comfortably;
- can suitably adjust the overall output and frequency response of sound.

## How to wear and remove an earmould ?

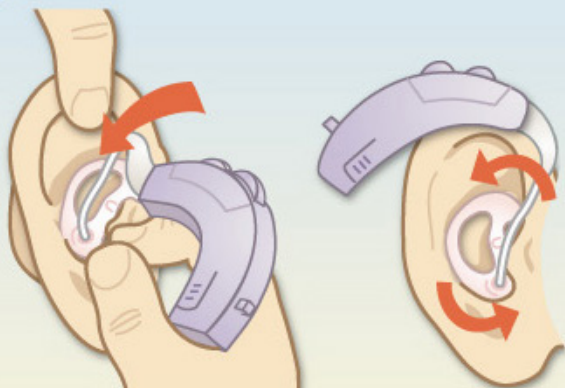


Switch off the hearing aid. Attach the earmould to the hearing aid properly and check if the curvatures of the two fit well.



Hold the earmould with your thumb and index finger. Place it close to your ear, with the canal of the earmould facing the ear.

3



Insert the canal of the earmould first into the ear and gently turn it backward to a correct position. Use the other hand to help pulling up and back the auricle if needed.

4



Put the hearing aid behind the ear. Do not twist the tubing.

5



Gently press the earmould to ensure it is nested inside the ear.

6



Turn on the hearing aid. If there is any acoustic feedback or feeling of discomfort, repeat the wearing process. Consult a specialist if no improvement is made.

7



Turn off the hearing aid before taking it out.

8



Hold the earmould with your fingers and pull it out gently.



## How to help students to use earmoulds properly?

Teach students to:

- distinguish left and right earmoulds
- wear and remove an earmould
- clean an earmould

Inform parents to solicit help in case any of the following happens:

- ☐ Feeling painful or uncomfortable even when the earmould is placed in a correct position;
- ☐ High-pitched acoustic feedback is heard even when the earmould is placed in a correct position;
- ☐ There is an allergic reaction to the ear;
- ☐ The tubing turns yellow and hard;
- ☐ The earwax in the canal cannot be removed;
- ☐ The earmould loosens;
- ☐ The earmould is damaged or its material or colour changes.

## Maintenance of earmoulds

- Check the earmould every day, and clean it with a piece of soft cloth or tissue.
- Check if the tubing is blocked.
- Wash the earmould with lukewarm soap water at least once a week.

Before washing: Detach the earmould from the hearing aid. Do not wet the hearing aid.

After washing: Dry the earmould thoroughly. Make sure the tubing is free of moisture before attaching it to the hearing aid again.

- Check if the curvatures of the earmould and hearing aid are well-fitted before attaching the earmould back to the hearing aid.

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