

1 October 1962.

## CLINICAL SERVICES LETTER NO. 29

### TO MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS

Dear Doctor,

#### HEARING AIDS

A deaf person is entitled to receive a hearing aid without charge when issued through the hearing aid clinic of a hospital board, or to a subsidy towards the cost of an approved hearing aid purchased privately from a dealer, if the aid is certified by a recognised otologist as being necessary and of a suitable type.

At the hearing aid clinic the patient has an audiometric test and is examined by an otologist, who authorises the issue of an aid if the patient is likely to receive benefit from it. Certain standards must be complied with. There is a choice of aid within certain limits and adequate periods of home trial are allowed before the final selection is made. The hearing aid then becomes the property of the patient.

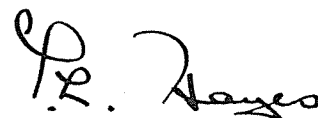
If a deaf person intends to purchase a hearing aid privately without going through a hearing aid clinic, he will if he is wise seek the advice of his doctor, who will refer him to an otologist if this is indicated. The patient is under no obligation to be seen by a doctor or otologist, and there is nothing to prevent him from going direct to a dealer who will no doubt perform some kind of hearing test. If, however, he wishes to claim the subsidy (£13) he must then apply to the hearing aid clinic, have an audiometric test, and be examined by an otologist, who will authorise payment of the subsidy if he comes within the accepted category. If the otologist finds that the hearing aid is unnecessary, or unsuitable, he has no option but to refuse to authorise payment of the subsidy. So the patient may find himself saddled with an expensive aid which is useless to him.

Before purchasing a hearing aid, anyone who is deaf should seek medical advice, preferably through his family doctor from an otologist or hearing aid clinic, but this cannot be made compulsory.

Yours faithfully,



(A. W. S. Thompson)  
Director



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