

Reference: FOI.ICB-2223/098

Subject: Audiology Services

*I can confirm that the ICB **does hold some of the information requested**; please see responses below:*

QUESTION	RESPONSE
<p>1. How many NHS providers (hospital or community) do you commission to provide audiology diagnostic services?</p> <p><i>e.g. answer. "We commission 3 NHS providers (2 Hospitals and 1 Community)".</i></p>	<p>Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Integrated Care Board (BNSSG ICB) commissions 4 providers (1 hospital and 3 community AQP providers).</p>
<p>2. How many NHS providers (hospital or community) do you commission to provide hearing aid services?</p> <p><i>e.g. answer. "We commission 6 NHS providers (2 Hospitals and 4 Community)".</i></p>	<p>BNSSG ICB commissions 2 high street providers: Specsavers and Scrivens Ltd, one community provider: The Outside Clinic and one hospital based service at University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust.</p>
<p>3. Do you commission non-conventional hospital/community providers such as those on a High Street e.g., Boots, Specsavers to provide audiology diagnostic services? If so, how many?</p> <p><i>e.g. answer. "Yes, we commission 2 High street providers, Boots and Specsavers."</i></p>	<p>BNSSG ICB commissions 2 high street providers: Specsavers, Scrivens Ltd and one community provider: The Outside Clinic.</p>

<p>4. Do you commission non-conventional hospital/community providers such as those on a High Street e.g., Boots, Specsavers to provide hearing aid services? If so, how many?</p> <p><i>e.g. answer. "Yes, we commission 2 High street providers, Boots and Specsavers"</i></p>	<p>BNSSG ICB commissions 2 high street providers: Specsavers, Scrivens Ltd and one community provider: The Outside Clinic.</p>	
<p>5. What is your tariff for audiology diagnostics (e.g. hearing tests)?</p>	<p>Assessment Only</p>	<p>£46</p>
	<p>Fitting 1 Aid Assessment fitting of 1 aid, cost of 1 aid, follow-up, 3 years aftercare and 3rd year review</p>	<p>£260 standard, £294 domiciliary</p>
	<p>Fitting 2 Aids Assessment, fitting of 2 aids, cost of 2 aids, follow up, 3 years aftercare and 3rd year review</p>	<p>£350 standard, £381 domiciliary</p>
	<p>Delayed Fitting Second Aid Delayed Fitting of second aid where patient is eligible for Bilateral Fitting</p>	<p>£80 standard, £87 domiciliary</p>
	<p>Replacement Hearing Aid Replacement hearing aid (due to mechanical failure outside of warranty during a period of annual aftercare following the 3rd year review)</p>	<p>£67 standard £73 domiciliary</p>
	<p>Annual aftercare and review Annual aftercare and review (after 3rd year review, where hearing needs have not changed and reassessment into the pathway is not required)</p>	<p>£22 standard, £24 domiciliary</p>
<p>6. What is included within the tariff for audiology diagnostics?</p>	<p>Within 28 calendar days of receipt of referral; Patient advice; Clinical interview; Full Otoscopy; Measurements; Loudness Levels; Intervention options.</p>	

<i>e.g. answer. "See answer for question 5"</i>				
7. What is your tariff for audiology rehabilitation (hearing aid prescription, fitting and care)? <i>e.g. answer. "See answer for question 5"</i>				See answer for question 5
8. What is included within the tariff for auditory rehabilitation (e.g. assessment, hearing aid prescription and fitting (one or two) and a routine follow up) <i>e.g. answer. "See answer for question 5"</i>				See answer for question 5
9. What was your total spend on audiology diagnostics for each financial year asked for? For example, you can collate a table like the one below and include information relevant to you in Column A.				The ICB does not hold this level of detail. Please see table below which includes totals for each year.
Column A	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	
All Providers	Cost?	Cost?	Cost?	
<i>Assessment Only</i>				
<i>Assessment and fitting of 1 Hearing Aid</i>				
<i>Assessment and fitting of 2 Hearing Aid</i>				
<i>Delayed Fitting of second Hearing Aid</i>				
<i>Aftercare</i>				

	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Grand total	£2,600,084.71	Data not available	£2,380,571.36

<i>Replacement Hearing Aid</i>				
Grand Total				
10. What was your total spend on audiology rehabilitation (hearing aid fittings and care) for each financial year asked for? <i>e.g. answer. "Please see above".</i>	The ICB does not hold this level of detail.			
11. How many new hearing aids did you commission for each financial year asked for? <i>e.g. answer = "N/a plans not agreed for AQP, hearing aids supplied based on need."</i>	N/a plans not agreed for AQP, hearing aids supplied based on need.			
12. Did you receive a report from your audiology providers detailing actual activity for each financial year?	Yes			
13. Would you be happy to participate in a future study that required all of your audiology providers to submit a standardised detailed report of actual activity undertaken (this would be written within the contracts between ICB's and their audiology providers)?	Yes			

The information provided in this response is accurate as of 18 November 2022 and has been approved for release by Sarah Truelove, Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer for NHS Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire ICB.