

## **HEARING AID, USE AND CARE OF**

### **PURPOSE:**

1. To assist the resident with use and care of a hearing aid for maximum effectiveness.
2. To prolong the life of the resident's hearing aid.
3. To enhance psychosocial well-being.
4. To enhance auditory perception for residents with hearing impairment.

### **EQUIPMENT:**

1. Hearing aid.
2. Toothpicks or applicator sticks.
3. Disposable tissues.
4. Replacement batteries (stored in refrigerator).
5. Warm water and soap (to cleanse ear).
6. Washcloth and towel.
7. Case or container to store hearing aid.

### **TYPES OF HEARING AIDS:**

1. Body-worn hearing aid with earpiece.
2. Eyeglass hearing aid.
3. Behind-the-ear- hearing aid.
4. In-the-ear hearing aid.

### **PROCEDURE:**

1. Screen resident for privacy.
2. Turn volume down and hearing aid off if necessary.
3. Inspect hearing aid ear mold for any breaks or cracks. Avoid exposure to excessive heat; this may change the shape of the ear mold and affect fit.
4. Check the ear mold channel for wax and/or debris and clean per manufacturer's recommendation. Wipe clean with tissue.
5. Check volume control and replace batteries as needed. Do not use water on the volume control module.
6. Cleanse and dry resident's ear well before inserting ear mold, if needed.
7. Gently insert ear mold.
8. Adjust volume and test hearing aid for effectiveness.
9. Leave resident in comfortable position with call light within reach.
10. Discard soiled equipment properly.
11. Notify social service designee if hearing aid needs service.
12. Follow standard precautions as needed.

### **AFTER REMOVING HEARING AID:**

1. Inspect ear for any issues.
2. Turn hearing aid off.
3. Clean per manufacturer's recommendation.
4. Open battery compartment of hearing aid to conserve battery and air dry internal components.
5. Place in labeled storage container and store per facility policy.