



## ***Here is What's New? in our September 2022 Edition:***

For information on **Hearing Loss and COVID-19 Resources**, see the details on this website's home page, or click on this link: [Hearing Loss And COVID-19 Resources](#)

### **Layperson's Guide:**

**Cancer Chemotherapy Side-Effects – Hearing Loss And Tinnitus (Ototoxicity):** As a cancer survivor who is an audiologist, I have experienced the anxiety associated with my diagnosis and the added stress of just how the cancer was going to be managed. Although I have produced several publications and presentations on cancer treatments and hearing loss, it is a completely different experience when you are the patient. Please **CLICK** on the following link: [Layperson's Guide](#)

**Ototoxicity – The Hidden Menace:** It is not just drugs taken for chemotherapy and life-threatening infections that cause ototoxic reactions, but the little unexpected everyday things too—an ingrown toenail, a sty on your eye, an irregular heartbeat, high blood pressure, and on and on it goes. Please **CLICK** on the following link: [Layperson's Guide](#)

**Drugs That Cause Ototoxicity:** Many of these drugs are used in common practice, even if the risk of ototoxicity is known and accepted. This may be deemed a necessary clinical risk, particularly if the patient is suffering from a serious or acute disease that requires urgent treatment. Please **CLICK** on the following link: [Layperson's Guide](#)

### **Guidance Articles:**

**FDA Clears Way For OTC Hearing Aids For People with Mild To Moderate Hearing Loss:** The new rules for OTC hearing aids are designed to make

amplification devices safe, affordable, and convenient to purchase over the counter and online. Please **CLICK** on the following link: [Guidance Articles](#)

**Pros And Cons Of Over-The-Counter Hearing Aids:** While an estimated 30 million Americans have hearing loss, only about one to three in 10 adults older than age 50 who might benefit from hearing aids use them. This matters because hearing loss can lead to social isolation, a decline in memory and thinking skills, and a higher risk for dementia. But hearing aids -- the primary treatment for hearing loss in older adults -- simply aren't an option for many Americans. Please **CLICK** on the following link: [Guidance Articles](#)

**Considering OTC Hearing Aids?:** Thinking about getting yourself some OTC hearing aids? HLAA's OTC Tip Sheet can help! Please **CLICK** on the following link: [Guidance Articles](#)

#### **Points Of View:**

**Consumers Still Need Telecoils And Hearing Loops – Even If They Have Bluetooth Hearing Aids:** As an audiologist with over 40 years of experience, I have published numerous articles on the effectiveness and popularity of telecoil-enabled hearing aids and hearing loop systems that make them so valuable to consumers with hearing loss, particularly in public venue applications. More recent media attention has highlighted the development of new Bluetooth technologies, like Auracast, with a veiled implication that the venerable magnetic induction hearing loop systems are on the road to obsolescence. Please **CLICK** on the following link: [Points Of View](#)

#### **Advocacy Help:**

**Google Maps Adds Hearing Loops To Website For Hearing Aid Telecoil Users:** Hearing loss is difficult to understand unless you have experienced it yourself. When you have hearing loss, friends and family often wonder why you can hear well in certain situations, but not in others. Or why you want to crank up the volume on the television but are bothered by other loud noises. Sometimes we don't fully understand it ourselves. And unless they have hearing loss too, neither do our audiologists, which creates a barrier to person-centered care. Please **CLICK** on the following link: [Advocacy Help](#)

**Advocacy And Legal Rights:** Every day KCDHH receives calls from deaf and hard of hearing individuals and their families who are struggling to overcome barriers they face as a result of hearing loss. For example, a family with a deaf child moves to Kentucky. He and his parents want him to be educated in his local school district, but he will need special accommodations. Another example is a deaf adult wants to attend a workshop or training offered to the public but he/she needs accommodations to participate. These are just a few of the examples of the advocacy requests received. Please CLICK on the following link: [Advocacy Help](#)

**Your Rights And The Law:** For an individual with a hearing loss, equal access typically means effective communication. Effective communication usually requires some form of accommodation and due to the diverse needs of deaf and hard of hearing individuals, the specific accommodation will depend on the individual. Please CLICK on the following link: [Advocacy Help](#)