

Why do you need to calibrate?

Calibration is done to ensure that the audiological equipment is at the correct levels. Standards for audiological calibration is to ensure that if an individual's hearing is assessed anywhere in the country the responses will be comparable. It is also to ensure that the equipment is functioning within manufacturer's specifications.

The HPCSA Standards of Practice in Audiology (2002)

'Test equipment should be calibrated annually or every six-months depending on the recommendations of the manufacturer. This calibration should be conducted by a certified professional and the calibration certificate should be on record on the premises. Calibration includes pure-tone audiometers (frequency, linearity, distortion, and rise and fall times of the signal), earphones, bone vibrators, speech audiometers, volume unit meters (VU), loudspeakers, impedance meters (probe tone, air pressure and reflex activating system to either the manufacturers specification or ANSI S3.39-1987 standard), ancillary equipment such as masking generators, tape recorders, and automatic audiometers. For auditory evoked potential systems that do not have calibration procedures, a normal hearing level "nHL" is recommended for each unit. This should be checked on a regular basis. Calibration certificates should be on record on the premises. Daily listening checks should be conducted by the user.'

What to look out for?

Perform daily listening and visual checks

Listen for	Look for	Audiometer care:
Frequency changes	Cracked cushions	Clean earphones daily
Tone quality	Poor earphone tension	Use non-alcohol wipes
Loudness changes	Cracked cords	Do not drop
Static	Poor connections	Do not keep in car in extreme temperatures

**N.B. Kindly note that calibration and repairs are different, should anything require repairs a separate fee will be charged.*

References:

HPCSA Standards of Practice in Audiology (2002)

Listen from Ear to Ear, Tips of the Month. (2011). Cleft Palate-Craniofacial Clinic Symposium. College of Allied Health, Oklahoma City, (3)

Retrieved from <https://www.ok.gov/health2/documents/September%202011%20Newsletter.pdf>