

e-Audiology

A peer reviewed e-learning resource supporting the self-development of assistant audiologists, healthcare professionals and volunteers working in audiology



The e-Audiology project is a collaboration between the Department of Health's National Audiology Programme and e-Learning for Healthcare.

The vision for people with hearing and balance problems is for them to receive high quality, efficient services delivered closer to home, with short waits and high responsiveness to the needs of local communities, free at the point of access.

The Department of Health launched the National Audiology Programme in 2007, working with local health systems to apply the health reform mechanisms of better commissioning and pathway redesign, choice and competition, information and incentives to the design and delivery of their audiology services. There is now a greater focus on sustainability and transfer of good practice.

The use of e-learning allows a uniform standard of education to be delivered throughout the NHS. It also allows staff normally involved in training to focus their activities on performance assessment and the facilitation of reflective practice rather than the delivery of core knowledge.

e-Audiology supports the National Audiology Programme by providing a training resource that encourages continuing professional development, helping those who work within audiology services to provide essential care for their patients.

The curriculum has three modules of e-learning designed to support assistant and associate audiologists, audiologists, GPs, GP practice staff, other healthcare professionals and volunteers across the NHS. Please note that Module 2 is no longer in development therefore there are three modules, numbered 1, 3 and 4.

- Module 1 Designed for assistant audiologists and includes general skills, anatomy and physiology, acoustics and psycho-acoustics, pure tone audiometry, pathology, symptoms and management options of ear and related conditions, hearing loss, auditory intervention and screening and diagnostic investigations.
- Module 3 For primary care professionals who are caring for people with common audiological problems (balance problems, ear wax, tinnitus and hearing impairment) with the aim of improving recognition of key symptoms, management and referral pathways.
- Module 4 To help raise awareness of available systems and tools which provide support for people working in audiology services, including the Patient Management System and the Quality Enhancement Tool.

e-Audiology was officially launched by Sue Hill OBE, Chief Scientific Officer, and Alan Ryan, National Programme Director for e-Learning for Healthcare at the end of 2009.

Further information is available at www.e-lfh.org.uk/projects/audiology