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## Tinnitus Assessment

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*A procedure to identify individuals with tinnitus who require further investigation or treatment.*

### **Expected Outcomes**

Tinnitus assessment identifies those persons most likely to have Tinnitus interfering with their educational, health, developmental or communications needs.

Tinnitus assessment may result in recommendations for referral for other examinations and services

Tinnitus assessment facilitates counselling of client/patient in tinnitus management.

### **Clinical Indications**

Individuals are assessed usually upon request or by referral when the Tinnitus is perceived to be a problem.

### **Clinical Process**

Case history is obtained and otoscopic examination performed and if necessary referral made.

Due care must be taken in test sequence order so as to avoid effect on subsequent measures. For this reason masking of the audiogram is completed after the tinnitus evaluation.

Assessment may include (in this order):

- Pure Tone air conduction (excluding masking, but including intermediate frequencies) and bone conduction (excluding masking) audiometry (refer NZAS to Standards of Practice iv) Standard Audiological Assessment).
- Tinnitus pitch and loudness matching
- Minimum masking level
- Testing for residual and partial residual inhibition.
- Loudness Discomfort Testing
- Masking of audiogram if required
- Speech testing
- Immittance audiometry (exclude middle ear acoustic reflex testing if indicated by loudness tolerance problems).
- Transient or Distortion product otoacoustic emissions (if available).
- Subjective questionnaires of tinnitus severity and/or handicap.

### **Settings/Equipment Specifications**

- The audiometric test technique and calibration of equipment and rooms comply with ISO and IEC technical and procedural standards.
- Assessments are conducted with calibrated acoustic stimuli refer IEC and ISO Standards (see NZAS Standards of Practice; iv) Standard Audiological Assessment) and manufacturers' specifications.



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### Documentation

- Documentation contains identifying information, pertinent background information, type of amplification systems/sensory aid used if applicable, assessment result, specific discussion of recommendations. Recommendations may address the need for further assessment, follow -up, fitting or referral.

### Related References

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**New Zealand Audiological Society Inc**  
PO Box 9724, Newmarket, Auckland 1149  
Phone/Fax: 0800 625 166  
Email: [mail@audiology.org.nz](mailto:mail@audiology.org.nz)  
Website: [www.audiology.org.nz](http://www.audiology.org.nz)



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