



ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE HEARING CONSERVATION TECHNICIAN

Technician Responsibilities

1. Maintain current hearing conservation certification - Certification must be renewed every five years in order to maintain status as an Occupational Hearing Conservationist
2. Regulations / Instructions: Become thoroughly familiar with and maintain copies of all pertinent Instructions containing Hearing Conservation guidance:
 - DOD Instruction 6055.12
 - NEHC TM 6260.51.99-2
 - OPNAV Instruction 5100.23 series (shore)
 - OPNAV Instruction 5100.19 series (afloat)
 - MCO 6260 series (Marines)
 - Local Instruction (Base Order)
3. Maintenance of DOEHRS-HC Audiometric Equipment and Troubleshooting
 - Perform daily documented Functional Listening Checks
 - Perform daily documented Biologic Calibration Checks (DD 2217)
4. Perform pure tone air conduction hearing tests
 - Perform Reference hearing tests (DD 2215) on all military personnel, and DOD civilians in the Hearing Conservation Program (HCP). Perform Periodic/Annual hearing tests on all personnel in the HCP
 - Schedule follow-up testing after an STS (DD2216)
 - Provide a termination audiogram upon separation (active duty) or upon removal from duties in noise/separation for civilians, on a DD2216 form.
5. Counsel patients on results of testing
 - Explain how to read the audiogram, what the frequencies and thresholds mean
 - Educate patients on what is normal hearing and what is considered a hearing loss
 - Explain what an STS is
 - Explain reasoning behind follow-up testing if there is an STS (TTS versus PTS)
 - **Temporary Threshold Shift (TTS)** - A significant threshold shift detected during monitoring audiometry that resolves after a period of auditory rest
 - **Permanent Threshold Shift (PTS)** - A significant threshold shift that does not resolve after auditory rest
6. Fit Hearing Protection
 - Medically fit all noise-exposed personnel with pre-formed hearing protection, purchased by individual's unit or shop
 - Re-educate patients who sustain an STS on proper wear and maintenance of HPD's
 - Document on the current audiogram the size and type of earplugs fitted for each ear



7. Refer Patients for Follow-up Care

- Refer to Medical Officer if medical condition is apparent (draining ear, pain, head cold, sinus problem)
- Refer to Audiologist if patient sustains an STS, does not meet baseline criteria, or complains of hearing problems or tinnitus

8. Educate and Motivate

- Document that all personnel in the Hearing Conservation Program have received annual hearing conservation education / training
- Deliver a one hour minimum initial class on the requirements of the program
- Tailor annual refresher training to the individual in conjunction with results of the annual audiogram

9. Limitations

- Technicians cannot train or certify other technicians in Hearing Conservation
- Technicians cannot train other technicians on the use of DOEHRs-HC or DOEHRs Data Repository (DR)
- Technicians cannot diagnose hearing loss or ear disease
- Technicians are not trained to perform hearing tests for children or as part of a diagnostic evaluation process

10. Responsibilities to the patient

- Provide valid audiograms
- Promote adherence to the Hearing Conservation Program
- Fit earplugs properly (each ear individually, not depending on ear sizes) & document sizes in medical record
- Counsel patients on how to insert plugs and how to clean them
- Provide a variety of hearing protective devices, allow the patient to choose
- Provide a neat, clean area for testing
- Protect patient privacy