

Hearing Instrument Dispenser (HID) Examination

EAR MOLD IMPRESSIONS PROTOCOL

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) coordinated a work group of industry experts who created this document as a guide and provided it to MDH to assist in preparation for the HID exam.

1. Subject Instruction
 - a. Describe ear mold impression procedures to subject.
 - i. I will look into your ear with an otoscope to see if there is any reason why an ear mold impression should not be taken.
 - ii. Next, I will place an otoblock in your ear canal to protect your ear drum.
 - iii. Then I will insert impression material into your ear canal and outer ear.
 - iv. After the impression material sets, I will remove it.
 - v. Do you have any questions?
2. Infection Control Procedures
 - a. Wash your hands or put on disposable latex gloves.
 - b. Clean the ear light, otoscope speculum and syringe or gun tip. (Disposable tips must also be cleansed).
 - c. Any type of cleansing agent is acceptable.
 - d. Any dropped appliances must be sanitized to receive point
3. Otoscopic Examination
 - a. Demonstrate proper and safe technique in examining the subject's ears, including proper use of otoscope.
 - i. Support the subject's head securely. Use hand and fingers to brace and bridge between the subject's head and the otoscope.
 - ii. Straighten ear canal by gently pulling pinna up or pulling on ear lobe.
 - iii. View ear canal and ear drum with the illuminated otoscope.
 - b. List the conditions you were looking for when you examined your subject's ears.
 - i. Excessive or impacted ear wax or cerumen.
 - ii. Condition of the eardrum, e.g., perforation.
 - iii. Ear abnormalities, e.g., cholesteatoma.
 - iv. Canal shape, texture, and/or direction.
 - v. Irritation, infection, discharge, or drainage.
4. Ear Mold Impression
 - a. Place the otoblock using the ear light.
 - b. Check otoblock placement with otoscope.
 - c. Insert impression material into the ear using appropriate bracing and appropriate force on syringe or impression gun.
 - d. Check the impression to see that it has set or cured and is ready for removal.

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- e. When the impression is ready to remove, break the seal between the earmold impression and the ear and rotate the earmold to remove from the ear slowly and gently.
 - f. Inspect the subject's ears using an otoscope after removing the earmold impressions.
 - i. What conditions were you looking for after you removed the earmold impression?
 - 1. Impression material or otoblock in the ear canal.
 - 2. Blood, hematoma or bruising.
5. An appropriate earmold impression includes:
- a. proper depth or canal length extending to the 2nd bend
 - b. impression material is completely and consistently mixed, if using a syringe
 - c. concha bowl is filled
 - d. helix portion is filled
 - e. canal is filled uniformly
 - f. block size is appropriate (not too large, no leakage/blow by)
 - g. no gaps/bubbles/voids in impression

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05/01/2026

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