

Be Part of the Conversation Again

Johnson Audiology offers personalized hearing health care



Owner Julie Johnson, AuD.

IS THE VOLUME ON THE TELEVISION CREEPING HIGHER THAN FRIENDS OR FAMILY WOULD PREFER? Does it seem like, while you can hear what people are saying, you wish you could understand them more clearly?

“Approximately 48 million Americans experience some degree of hearing loss in one or both ears according to the National Institute on Deafness and other Communication Disorders (NIDCD),” says Dr. Julie Johnson, owner of Johnson Audiology in Hanover, noting the NIH reports that while the overall risk of hearing loss may be decreasing over time, the prevalence of hearing loss is expected to rise because of our aging population. However, hearing health care is generally not utilized to its fullest in this population. “Literature shows that people with hearing loss wait an average of seven years before seeking help in the form of hearing aids,” says Julie, adding, “Among adults aged 70 and older who could benefit from hearing aids, fewer than one in three has ever used them.”

PATIENT-SPECIFIC SOLUTIONS

Johnson Audiology offers best practices in audiology in a convenient, local setting. “We’re ethical and evidence based. We take pride in using science to measure and manage hearing loss. Our focus is finding patient-specific solutions to improve hearing, rather than a focus on hearing-aid sales,” says Julie. “Solutions may include a referral to ENT, wax removal, assistive listening devices such as TV amplifiers or amplified phones, repairing existing hearing aids, over-the-counter hearing aids, or prescription hearing aids.”



Left: Julie Johnson, AuD; Nicole Maynard, AuD; Danielle Shine, AuD; and Michelle Packard, HIS.

Below: The office is bright and comfortable.

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Johnson Audiology was established in 2014. It began providing services on-site at Kendal’s lifecare community in Hanover in 2016 and moved to its current downtown Hanover location in 2018. An adult-centered practice, its aim is “to be a trusted center that our community can feel confident in recommending to their friends and family.”

Specializing in total hearing health care, services include comprehensive hearing evaluations, wax removal, custom hearing protection, hearing-aid consultations, hearing-aid fittings using real-ear verification, hearing-aid repairs, and compensation and pension evaluations for veterans. Although hearing loss occurs across the lifespan, Julie notes the greatest predictor of hearing loss is age, and Johnson Audiology’s services are tailored to an adult population.

The Johnson Audiology team addresses some frequently asked questions:

What are symptoms of hearing loss?

Difficulty hearing speech in the context of background noise or without the use of visual cues and hearing a conversation without understanding it. The onset of tinnitus (ringing or buzzing in the ears) may occur occasionally or constantly.



to your health

Does insurance cover a hearing test?

Most insurances, including Medicare, will cover a hearing test when medically necessary. While Johnson Audiology is not in network with all insurance carriers, patients are often able to apply for out-of-network reimbursement.

Can hearing loss cause dementia?

Untreated hearing loss can increase the risk of cognitive decline. This can be related to social isolation, as well as the increased cognitive load necessary for a person with hearing loss to understand speech, thus leaving fewer resources for other cognitive tasks. Some of the signs of cognitive decline can be similar to symptoms of hearing loss, so a hearing test is often recommended as a part of the assessment for a concern about cognitive status.

What are real-ear measures (REM)?

REM is our way of accounting for the shape and size of each person's individual ear when adjusting the amount of volume needed for a hearing-aid prescription. A small microphone is placed in the patient's ear while a speech passage is played and used to measure the hearing aid's output at the level of the eardrum. This output is matched against the prescriptive values for the hearing loss to make sure the patient is getting the right amount of volume at each pitch.

What about over-the-counter hearing aids?

OTC hearing aids are available for adult patients with perceived mild to moderate levels of hearing loss. They are typically less expensive than prescription hearing aids because there is no professional associated with selecting, programming, or maintaining the device. OTC hearing aids are designed to be "self-fitting," so the patient may adjust treble, bass, and volume based on their perceived need.

What if I have hearing aids and I'm still struggling?

Johnson Audiology can assess the function of your current hearing aids and use REM to verify that they are programmed to



Top left: Administrative schedulers Pam Mudgett and Jennifer McHugh with Dr. Julie Johnson and Dr. Nicole Maynard.

Center: Dr. Julie Johnson and Dr. Catherine Rieke with patients.

Bottom left: Reception desk at Johnson Audiology.

meet your needs or discuss other options as necessary.

Why choose Johnson Audiology?

The most important consideration when seeking prescription hearing aids is choosing a clinic following best practices for hearing-aid programming. Real-ear measures (REM) are the gold standard in audiology and have been proven vital for successful hearing-aid fittings. At Johnson Audiology we perform this procedure on every fitting and adjustment to ensure the best hearing outcome.

What do you appreciate about being a business in Hanover?

Our providers' backgrounds are in academic medical center settings. We enjoy being able to provide this level of collaborative care in a comfortable neighborhood practice. Our providers and our patients are able to appreciate the convenience of the locations in Hanover. You can see your audiologist, have a coffee at Umpleby's, check out a few books from the library, and be home before lunch! ❁

Johnson Audiology

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johnsonaudiologyhearing.com



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