



Health & Wellness

Hearing Care

Industry Snapshot

Overview:

- ✓ An Ophthalmologist is an eye M.D.; a medical doctor specializing in eye and vision care. Audiologists are experts in the structures of the middle and inner ear. Both are trained to provide the full spectrum of eye care, from exams and diagnosis, to prescribing glasses or contact lenses. However, an Ophthalmologist can perform complex and delicate eye surgery.
- ✓ Undetected loss of vision can also cause confusion or depression. People with diabetes can have bleeding of the retina and a higher risk of developing glaucoma, cataracts and diabetic retinopathy. At least 50% of those diagnosed with glaucoma are unaware of their condition; and 61% of Americans require some form of vision correction.
- ✓ Cutting edge hearing aid technology is making great strides in improving how people hear in noisy environments, large crowds. Many of today's hearing aids can stream sound wirelessly from your TV, radio, computer or other devices directly into your hearing aids.

Services:

Hearing Professionals should offer a full spectrum of hearing related services including:

- ✓ testing, programming services
- ✓ general hearing-related health education
- ✓ an in-office hearing aid demonstration
- ✓ medical referral, if necessary

Your fitting appointment with your provider should include:

- ✓ fine tuning of your instruments
- ✓ practice inserting and removing your aids
- ✓ changing batteries, cleaning and storage options
- ✓ practice controlling your aids, volume/memory buttons, accessories, etc.

A hearing professional will provide continued support and maintenance services after your purchase including:

- ✓ program adjustments and reinstruction
- ✓ clean and check services
- ✓ repairs and warranty services

Your hearing professional should schedule follow-up appointment(s) during your trial period to make necessary program adjustments, modifications, or re-instruction, as needed.



Health & Wellness

Hearing Care

Provider Selection

Specialization:

A Hearing Instrument Specialist may or may not be an Audiologist. Licensure of audiologists is mandatory in all states. Ophthalmologist is a medical doctor while an Optometrist has earned the Doctor of Optometry (OD) degree.

Preparation:

- ✓ Know your parents' prior optical history.
- ✓ It's helpful to have possession of former records.
- ✓ When was the last optical visit, and the reason for the visit?
- ✓ Have medical insurance card and/or L&I paperwork if applicable.

Evaluation:

- ✓ Is the doctor accepting new patients?
- ✓ Are patients with special conditions (Alzheimer's/Dementia) considered?
- ✓ Is the office wheelchair accessible?
- ✓ Does the doctor have a specialization in treating seniors?
- ✓ Do the specialists or audiologist rotate between offices?
- ✓ Can you see the same practitioner each time if you prefer?
- ✓ Are in-home or on-site services offered such as in retirement or nursing homes?
- ✓ Are there fees for out-of-office services?
- ✓ What are your providers' return policy? Are there any fees associated with returning your hearing aids?
- ✓ What fees can you expect after the sale? Do they charge for program adjustments, clean and check services, in-house repairs for minor cracks, broken battery doors, etc.
- ✓ If a move is on the horizon, who can service my aids.
- ✓ Provide references.



DISCOVER THE ANSWERS FOR ELDERS RADIO SHOW



1PM SATURDAYS!
820AM • AM1590

9PM SUNDAYS!
AM1590



If you or your family are navigating senior care, discover the Answers for Elders Radio Show! Learn from our many podcasts here, our live broadcast 820AM or 1590AM on Saturdays and Sundays in Western Washington, or on iHeartRadio, worldwide. Now in our third year, Answers for Elders is “the voice of senior care”, featuring content on all of the Decision Guide topics here, and even more!



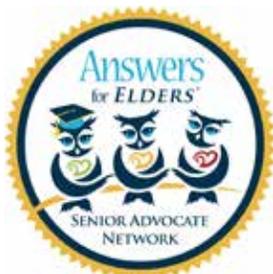
Hosted by Suzanne Newman, she intertwines her own journey as caregiving her mother. Through her real-life experience, and her passion for supporting families, caregivers, and seniors, she interviews top providers in senior care. Coming at it from a family member’s perspective, you will discover how to make later life care decisions a lot easier no matter what stage you are in. Because eldercare is interconnected, there are many moving parts and options that you may not know about. Answers for Elders and the most respected eldercare experts in the industry help you learn through their knowledge and wisdom. Each week we tackle subjects like caregiving, housing, living options, aging in place, healthcare, financial, legal questions and more.

Understanding the different options helps make later life a lot easier. It also helps you be more proactive before changes need to be made so that you can make the best decisions for you and your family members.

ABOUT THE HOST

Suzanne Perkins Newman, Founder & CEO, Former Family Caregiver
My Passion: Advocacy for Caregivers & Seniors

- Host of the Answers for Elders Radio Show!
- Founder/CEO Answers for Elders, Inc.
- Family Caregiver “Coach” • Former Family Caregiver for her own Mother
- Author of *The Advocate’s Heart: Finding Your Real Strength in Caring for Aging Loved Ones*
- 25-Year Executive in Advertising, Publishing & Digital Media



JOIN THE SENIOR ADVOCATE NETWORK

Sign up for our Senior Advocate Network [HERE](#) to be on the inside list of new developments in senior care, and receive our newsletter, Sage Advice!

Best news of all? It’s FREE!