

Risk Assessment for Hearing Loss

If two (2) or more conditions and behaviors exist, refer for a hearing evaluation.

Step 1: Assess Co-Morbidities

- History of falls within past year
- Complaint of acute or chronic dizziness
- Diabetes
- Cardiovascular disease
- Poor self-rated health
- Inability to perform routine activities of daily living
- Cerebrovascular disease
- Mild cognitive impairment
- Depression
- Sudden or rapidly progressive hearing loss within the previous 90 days
- Significant visual loss
- At Risk (2 or more conditions, refer for a hearing evaluation)**

Step 2: Assess Behavioral Risk Factors

- Does the patient consistently ask “what” when you are asking questions?
- Does the patient offer incorrect responses to simple questions?
- Does the patient appear confused at times because of misunderstanding?
- Does the patient spouse or caregiver answer questions for patient?
- Does the patient turn his/her head toward you better to understand what is being said?
- At Risk (2 or more behaviors, refer for a hearing evaluation)**