

Clear Ears Learning Course in Aural Care Program

The inability to manually remove earwax is an everyday setback for audiologists. It causes operational inefficiencies and client dissatisfaction. Clear Ears learning portal can up skill practitioners to the best practice technique of manual removal under direct vision using micro suction and curettage techniques and provide clients with a 'one stop shop' providing a win-win for everyone.

Why choose Clear Ears Learning?

Clear Ears partnered with DeakinCo to develop their successful face-to-face Aural Care Course into a blended digital learning platform to optimise access to certification for clinicians and businesses. The course was then tested for capability to transition participants from theory to practice in 2018 through a pilot program on a hearing mission in Manila, Philippines. Five participants of varying skill from learner to experienced practitioner undertook the course over a four-day intensive, followed by a final day on mission, resulting in successful mission delivery of accurate assessment and treatment of 500 patients.

Traditional face-to-face courses have inherent hidden costs for business including travel and accommodation and the opportunity cost of activity downtime whilst clinicians attend training. In addition, consolidation of learning is difficult to achieve with one off course attendance.

The Clear Ears digital learning platform allows clinicians to access the course in small chunks at any time and place convenient to them. It uses spaced learning theory enabling learners to review any aspect of the course repeatedly to develop a solid foundation and thus maximise their learning. For the experienced practitioner there is also built in intuitive recognition of prior learning (RPL) that allows them to fast track their learning.

The Course features interactive training activities that give learners the opportunity to practice techniques whilst being stepped through each procedure in their own simulated environment. This allows the learner to stop, practice and repeat as often as needed to perfect each technique. In addition, expert individual feedback is given to ensure safe, correct technique is achieved.

The learning portal also offers on-going access through subscription to professional resources such as treatment algorithms, troubleshooting tips and tricks and networking via the discussion forum.

Previous Audiology participants have provided the following feedback to Audiology Australia:

"This was the most amazing course I have ever completed. So thorough and such an eye opener into common practice in an audiology and ENT clinic"

"The course was online and did not have presenters. The content was very detailed and thorough, 11 learning modules and 8 case studies to complete. It was very enjoyable, the case studies were interesting and the resources are extensive."

"I am now able to confidently remove wax from client's ears. This has had a positive impact on my clients as they don't have to go to see another professional to have it removed and has shortened turn around on being able to safely take impressions for moulds and hearing aids."

"This activity allowed me to gain advanced knowledge regarding aural care to provide my clients with appropriate cerumen management, removal techniques, disease management and when to refer on for further treatment via GP and/or ENT specialist."

“This course has given me the knowledge and confidence to begin performing wax removal and identify the correct method to use, how to safely and correctly use the equipment, and refer on when required. It has refreshed my knowledge of ear anatomy and physiology and pathophysiology of the ear.”

“This will help me provide a whole service for my clients many whom have struggled with wax management in the past. I also believe the revision on ear pathology has been invaluable to assist with client care and to open up a channel of communication with my local GPs and ENTs.”

“This has been a very useful course and very valuable for hearing rehabilitation of aids when most of the time, the issues are wax related (eg: aids feeding back).”

“I have gained a solid understanding of the procedures to safely manage cerumen removal including techniques, tools, hygiene, patient education and when to refer on. This allows me to manage my clients in the clinic more effectively and confidently.”

Instruction level: Intermediate/Advanced:

The course assumes prior learning of basic ear anatomy and physiology in an audiological setting. Understanding basic ear anatomy and typical audiological management of cerumen is assumed knowledge.

Proposed Teaching Strategies:

The Clear Ears online learning portal has been designed by Digital and Blended Learning experts at Deakin University to be both a best practice learning experience, and a convenient one-stop-shop professional resource.

The Learning hub offers the new learner the ability to undertake the underpinning theory in a linear topic based fashion prior to applying their knowledge through the case study assessments. The experienced practitioner may choose to progress straight to the case study assessments and dip back to the underpinning theory as they move through each assessment.

The learning hub offers many resources that assist ongoing professional development, including tips and tricks, troubleshooting, treatment algorithms and – most importantly – a professional forum for community support.

Assessment

Theoretical Certification

Minimum case study result required to pass the theoretical component of course is 90%.

Endorsement - Category: 1.2, CPD Points: 10

Practical Certification

All learners must achieve a 100% pass with expert feedback and guidance provided until pass achieved:

- 20 Case logs demonstrating appropriate history taking, assessment and application of the correct aural care technique
- 5 photos demonstrating safe and correct techniques for each aural care method
- 1 video demonstrating safe and effective wax removal

Endorsement - Category: 2.2, CPD Points: 30

Objectives

Curriculum

- Introduction to Aural Care
- Anatomy & Physiology of the ear
- Pathophysiology of the ear
- Aural Care Instrumentation
- Patient Care
- Ear Examination
- Audiology Assessments
- Aural Care Wax Management Techniques:
 - Micro Suction, Curettage, Alligator Forceps
- Aural Care - Disease Management
- Post-Operative Care
- Education and Referral

Program Abstract

A full abstract and demo of the Learning Portal can be found at <https://www.clearearslearning.com> and following the find out more drop down.