

Treatment that stands the test of time

Hearing Associates, P.C. was established in 1987. Throughout the years, Hearing Associates has worked closely with the ENT Clinic at The Mason City Clinic serving Mercy North Iowa Hospital, Mason City. This professional cooperation was inspired by three Otolaryngologists; the late Dr. Russell Schurtz, Dr. Louis Garcia, and Dr. Phillip Lee. The staff of Mason City ENT Clinic continue to be an integral part of sharing the care for mutual patients.

With this working partnership with ENT, Hearing Associates has also been serving several outreach clinics through Mercy Hospitals. These locations include Britt, Charles City, Cresco, Hampton, Iowa Falls, New Hampton, and Osage. In 2003, Hearing Associates also added Mayo Clinic of Albert Lea, MN. Additionally, Hearing Associates is a long-standing respected cochlear implant referral to the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics.

A lot has changed in thirty years, including nearly invisible hearing aids that are Bluetooth or iPhone compatible, audiometric tools that allow us to perform evaluations with pinpoint accuracy, and a growing staff to meet the needs of our nine clinics. One thing that has not and will never change, however, is our commitment to our patients.

Because Hearing Associates, P.C. has been as much a part of the community as the patients we serve for decades, we have had the pleasure of serving generations of families. It is a joy and honor to earn the trust of returning patients and their referrals to extended family members and friends. We genuinely desire to provide hearing care that makes a positive difference in the lives of so many. We look forward to continuing our goal of providing exceptional audiology service.

"Providing better hearing, one patient at a time."

Mission Statement

At Hearing Associates, P.C., our goal is to be your guide in your pursuit of better communication. We'll present options that best suit your lifestyle to help you overcome hearing loss. Our experienced staff is here to listen to your needs and show you the ways that we can improve your hearing and quality of life.

We appreciate the trust that you and your physician have placed in us for your long-term hearing healthcare.



Untreated Hearing Loss

Hearing loss speeds up dementia, cognitive decline

A new study has found a troubling link between hearing loss and dementia: Hearing specialists from Johns Hopkins report that hearing-impaired adults between the ages of 75 and 84 were more likely to experience cognitive and memory problems than those in the same age range with normal hearing. In fact, those study participants who had hearing problems experienced cognitive decline 30 to 40 percent faster than those with normal hearing.

The cognitive impacts of hearing loss

Many symptoms of the "aging brain," such as memory and the ability to learn new tasks, can actually be signs of hearing loss. Research shows that the ability to think and multitask is diminished when the brain is working overtime to compensate for hearing loss. Those with hearing loss and their family members need to understand that symptoms of cognitive decline may in fact be symptoms of hearing loss.

The impact of hearing loss on job effectiveness and lower income

A Better Hearing Institute study involving 14,000 households discovered that people with untreated hearing loss have up to \$30,000 less in average income. For people with milder hearing

losses, hearing aids can offset this impact by 90 - 100%. For those with severe to moderate hearing losses, hearing aids can offset this impact by 65 - 77%.

Hearing Loss Hurts

The average age of first-time hearing aid wearers is close to 70 years of age, despite the fact that 65 percent of people with hearing loss are below the age of 65 - and nearly half of all people with hearing loss are below the age of 55.



www.hearingassociatesmc.com