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Email us at info@swiftaudiology.com to subscribe to our e-newsletter.

Do You Know Your FSA Balance?

It's that time of year. Have you checked the balance in your Flexible Spending Account (FSA)? This pretax medical deduction can help you to spend less on your health care while experiencing the maximum tax benefit.

There is a catch — you must use funds within the current calendar year to reap the rewards. By spending all of the money in your account before the year-end deadline, you ensure you are getting the most benefit from your hard-earned dollars.

FSA funds can be used for medical care and can also include hearing services, dental, and vision.

What does this mean?

If you still have a balance left in your account, consider scheduling a hearing exam or purchasing hearing aid supplies before you lose those funds. Our insurance specialist can help you determine eligibility for such things as new hearing aids as well as hearing aid supplies such as batteries, amplifiers, and hearing protection.



From Our House to Yours – Happy Holidays!



Our Founder's Holiday Message

As we gather with family and friends for the holidays, we count our blessings. With the holiday season here, it is important for us all to be able to hear our dear friends and family. Gathering around the dinner table, visiting loved ones, sharing memories, and going to holiday parties are often on the schedule.

2021 has certainly been a challenging year as we continue to ensure safety for our patients and staff amidst COVID protocols. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for your understanding as we navigated uncharted waters while serving you and your family during this pandemic. We consider it a privilege and an honor that you have put your trust in Swift Audiology to deliver quality hearing health services.

I'd like to personally thank you for your referrals of family and friends. We take pride in the service we deliver to every patient. There is nothing we enjoy more than our patients singing praises with referrals and online reviews.

So that our staff may have time with their families during the holidays, our offices will be closed the following days:

- **Christmas: Fri. Dec. 24th – Mon. Dec. 27th**
- **New Year's: Fri. Dec 31st – Mon. Jan. 3rd**

From our Family to Yours - Wishing you and yours the best in the New Year!

Deb Swift & the Swift Audiology Team

4 Locations Serving the Greater Pittsburgh Area

Allison Park 4731 William Flinn Hwy Suite B Allison Park, PA 15101 (412) 487-9883	North Hills 6000 Babcock Blvd. Suite 105 Pittsburgh, PA 15237 (412) 364-8338	South Hills 1699 Washington Road Suite 101 Pittsburgh, PA 15228 (412) 851-9500	Washington 2107 N. Franklin Drive Suite 2 Washington, PA 15301 (724) 222-9010
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Swift Audiology

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- EAR MOLDS
- AMPLIFIERS
- HEARING HEALTH
- TINNITUS
- HEARING TEST
- SOUND
- AUDIOGRAM
- HEARING LOSS
- RECHARGEABLE
- SWIFT AUDIOLOGY
- HERTZ
- HEARING AIDS
- AUDIOLOGIST
- DOMES
- EARS
- WAX TRAPS
- EAR WAX

Play this puzzle online at:
<https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/2930962/>

"Mom's back to work and grandma is on duty. What can we find to get into that she won't hear us? We better think quick – her hearing test at Swift Audiology is next week! Hurry, I'll bet we can find the treats and Grandma won't hear us!"

We didn't get into anything!



I can't turn my back even for a minute, I didn't hear you two rascals in that bag!

Oliver's Corner

Have you seen our mascot Oliver in some of our print ads? You never know where you'll find him next. He's always getting himself into some kind of trouble. Speaking of finding something, we've put together this Word Search puzzle for you to enjoy!

Swift Audiology Supports Local Veterans Needing Service Dogs



Veterans have done so much to protect our freedom, but when they return home, the scars of war sometimes remain. Swift Audiology is proud to support Rescue 22 Foundation, a nonprofit organization that provides the highest quality task-trained dogs for our nation's veterans.

Angela Connor, Executive Board Chair, CFO, and Co-Founder of Rescue 22 is the daughter of a Vietnam Veteran and saw firsthand the effects of war. When asked what the 22 stood for, she replied, "The 22 represents 22 veterans we lose to suicide a day."

The organization provides psychiatric, mobility, and medical service dogs to our veterans at no charge and without

geographic restrictions. Service dogs meeting the needs of veterans diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress remain the most requested type of dog. Currently, the VA does not provide funding for service dogs for PTS, TBI, or other non-mobility diagnoses.

Generous donations from individuals, companies, and sponsors provide funds for the \$25,000 it takes to train each dog. The dogs are an important tool to combat depression, anxiety, and other challenges associated with PTSD. There are currently 10 veterans within the Pittsburgh region on the waiting list for a service dog.

Swift Audiology is a proud supporter of the Rescue 22 Foundation. We have and will continue to commit monies to the organization for each hearing aid sold. These funds helped to offset the cost of training a service dog for Josh, a local Pittsburgh Veteran. It was our honor to meet Josh and his family in presenting a check to help pay for his service dog. Our veterans have given so much – it's time we all do our part to give back.



ASK THE PROFESSIONAL

When is the RIGHT time to get hearing aids?

At Swift Audiology, my patients constantly tell me, "I wish I would have gotten my hearing aids sooner!". The truth is, it takes most people about five to seven years to pursue amplification once they have been diagnosed with an aidable hearing loss. Some reasons why people delay the process include vanity, a lack of knowledge about hearing aids, fear that the devices will be bothersome, and mistrust from experiences with previous health care professionals. Do you constantly feel like people are mumbling? Are you having trouble hearing in noisy situations? Is speech difficult to understand while watching your favorite television show or movie? If your ability to hear is affecting the quality of your or a loved one's life, then I would suggest scheduling a hearing evaluation. Hearing aids have proven to boost your mood, keep your mind sharp, and most

importantly, improve your quality of life. The journey to hearing better may seem intimidating at first, but at Swift Audiology, we take adequate time needed to educate you on your hearing loss and how hearing aids may help. We make the process easy by working together to find the right solution for your personal listening needs. Although there is not a universal "right time" to get hearing aids, the sooner you start the process, the better. So...what are you waiting for? Call 724-222-9010 to schedule your hearing evaluation today!

Clin. Med. 2020, 9(1), 254;
<https://doi.org/10.3390/jcm9010254>



Dr. Lauren Carmen, Au. D.
AUDIOLGIST
Swift Audiology

The Importance of Regular Hearing Aid Maintenance

Hearing aids, like any other device, need regular cleaning. Everyday hearing aid maintenance begins with you. By cleaning and caring for your devices properly, you can protect them, extend their life, and maintain their performance level. However, it's also important to schedule professional cleanings at Swift Audiology for your hearing aids four times a year.

In addition to fully and properly cleaning the devices, our staff will examine your aids to check for damage and repair them if needed. We will check and adjust the settings on your hearing aids at this time to ensure an optimal level of performance that is tailored to your unique needs.

Lack of professional maintenance can lead to reduced performance and benefits due to wax and debris from our ears, perspiration, dead skin and hair follicles, and dirt from handling. Over time, the aids need to be vacuumed out, and receiver and microphone filters, ear hooks, tubings, and domes need to be replaced. Ongoing care leads to years of better hearing from one pair of aids.

Although earwax plays an important role in the health of your ear, it can cause problems with electronic devices like hearing aids. In fact, it can decrease the performance of your hearing aids if it builds up around your devices.

Your hearing aids will be exposed to earwax daily. For this reason, we recommend that you clean your hearing aids at the end of each day. Use a dry cotton swab or a soft toothbrush to clean away earwax, oil, moisture, and any other debris that has accumulated on them. Make sure to pay attention to the receiver and microphone when cleaning your devices.

We recommend you frequently change the wax filter in your hearing aids, which protects the internal components of the devices from earwax damage. Replace the filter whenever you spot earwax build-up on it and be sure that you use the correct type of wax filter for your device.

If you have had your hearing aids for a number of years, it may be time for an upgrade to maintain your optimal hearing health and brain function. Today's hearing aids can be rechargeable and can connect directly via Bluetooth to cell phones and apps, TVs, iPad devices and tablets, computers, cars, and remote telehealth programming. With many brands to choose from, our professionals will guide you in selecting your best option based on your personal hearing and lifestyle needs.



Dr. Megan Myers-Auria, CCC-A
AUDIOLGIST



The Hearing Aid Test Drive

Especially during holiday gatherings, have you noticed a loved one pulling away from conversations, becoming isolated, or turning the volume up on the TV? Perhaps they could benefit from our Hearing Aid Test Drive™ and experience the difference in hearing with state-of-the-art hearing devices.

Are you **HEARING** those special moments in life?

Let us help you **HEAR** the fun in your life!

EXPERIENCE the latest in Hearing Aid Technology.

TEST DRIVE before You Buy.

1. Make an appointment for a hearing evaluation.
2. Take home hearing devices that same day with no deposit or commitment required.
3. Take your time and try out as many devices as you want until you find the perfect fit.

Live, play and work with your hearing aids utilizing our **Hearing Aid Test Drive** program before making a selection. Visit swiftaudiology.com or call 724-222-9010 to schedule your appointment today.

Meet Our Staff

Our staff makes all the difference to our patients and their experience at Swift Audiology. Throughout our years in business, multiple "Best of the Best" awards speak for themselves.



Marion Wilson, has been with Swift Audiology since 2008. Patients enjoy seeing her smiling face, as she has that keen ability to relate to almost anyone. In her spare time, Marion enjoys reading, card club, traveling, and watching the Steelers!

Tammy Swift is a PA licensed Board-Certified Hearing Instrument Specialist and also has Lyric extended wear certification. She has worked for Swift Audiology since 2011. Tammy truly is committed to the highest level of care for her patients.

She has 2 kids and 2 grandkids. Tammy loves spending time with her 4-legged "furry friends" and riding horses.

