

Expanded audiology hours at Charleston VA



Charleston has recently added walk-in clinic hours for audiology diagnostics and hearing aid services.

By Lanelle W. Strawder

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Hearing loss is one of the most prevalent service-connected disabilities reported among returning Servicemembers. Years of exposure to high noise levels in combat, across work environments, and even during training activities have led to a considerable increase in the number of Veterans with hearing difficulties, especially among Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF), Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), and Operation New Dawn (OND) Veterans.

The Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center has long offered audiology services to Veteran patients. The Audiology Department provides comprehensive hearing tests and balance studies, prescribes and repairs hearing aids, and performs Compensation & Pension hearing exams right here at the medical center. The Charleston VA is also the only VA facility in South Carolina that performs cochlear implant surgery and programming.

However, in the last few years, Charleston VA has seen a steady increase in the number of audiology patients. To help meet the growing demand, Charleston VA has made a concerted effort to increase the number of audiology clinic hours being offered across the hospital and its outlying clinics. Chief of Audiology Dr. David Chin has been instrumental in this effort.

“This is something we’ve wanted to do for a long time,” Chin says of the increased hours. “We’re very excited to have gotten to the point where we could offer walk-in service.”

Earlier this year, the audiology clinic at the Charleston site began offering Saturday hours from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. In addition to the regular hours where audiologists see patients by appointment, Veterans can now get diagnostic audiology exams without an appointment during its new walk-in hours in Charleston, at the Myrtle Beach Specialty Care Annex and at the Savannah VA outpatient clinic. In Savannah and Myrtle Beach, Veterans without an appointment can also walk in for hearing aid repairs.

The new hours are listed below and on the [Audiology web page](#). There you can also find some Frequently Asked Questions about hearing loss and hearing aid maintenance.

Ralph H. Johnson VAMC

Regular Clinic Hours, Monday - Saturday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. *(New Saturday hours!)*

NEW! Diagnostic Walk-in Clinic, Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

No Hearing Aid Walk-in Hours

Myrtle Beach VA Specialty Care Annex

Regular Clinic Hours, Monday - Friday, 7 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

NEW! Diagnostic Walk-in Clinic, Monday - Friday, 7 a.m. - 12 p.m.

NEW! Hearing Aid Walk-in Hours, Tuesday and Thursday ONLY, 7 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Savannah VA Outpatient Clinic

Regular Clinic Hours, Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

NEW! Diagnostic Walk-in Clinic, Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

NEW! Hearing Aid Walk-in Hours, Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

If you are a Veteran who is concerned about your hearing and believe you are experience hearing loss associated with your military service, start by placing a formal claim with Compensation & Pension. Once the claim is processed, C&P will schedule a hearing examination for you if they feel a test is warranted.