

When to refer to an Audiologist?

Healthy hearing is more than just the loss of audibility! It is just as important to have a complete hearing evaluation if the patient has concerns regarding any issues of **abnormal auditory perceptions** (i.e. tinnitus, hyperacusis, misophonia).

You already refer your patients for the most common concerns the ear: hearing loss, imbalance, and tinnitus. However, abnormal auditory perceptions (ICD-9 Code **388.4**) are typically noted but lack the follow up care.

Hyperacusis is an abnormal sensitivity to everyday sounds. For people with hyperacusis, the everyday, normal sounds that most people hardly notice suddenly or gradually become irritating and painful. People who suffer from the disease often complain of living in a world in which the volume seems to be turned up too high. ([In the news](#))

Misophonia is a distinct irritation or dislike of specific sounds ([Jastreboff & Jastreboff, 2013](#)) such as those produced by a family member during activities like eating, chewing, swallowing, and lip smacking. ([In the news](#))

Phonophobia is characterized by clinically significant anxiety provoked by exposure to a specific situation (i.e. loud, uncontrollable noises) leading to avoidance behavior (DSM-IV).

If your patients report any of the above, make the referral to **GOOD SOUND AUDIOLOGY** for a complete evaluation.

Remember ask your patient “when was your last hearing test?” NEVER ask your patient “how’s your hearing?”

Thank you for allowing us to participate in the care of your patients. Cheers to a happy and healthy year! We look forward to helping your patients with better hearing!

Best Regards,

Tina Jessee, Au.D. and Tanya Karg, Au.D.

[Hall-DecreasedSoundToleranceDisorders](#)

[Misophonia Article](#)