



Here is what's new in our December 2018 Edition:

Layperson's Guide:

Can PSAPs Help Your Hearing?: Consumer Reports tested a handful of inexpensive, over-the-counter personal sound amplification products to see how well they work. Personal sound amplification products, or PSAPs, which are available over the counter, cost a fraction of the price of the average hearing aid. The more expensive ones are about \$500 each. Please CLICK on this link to read more: [Layperson's Guide](#)

Guidance Articles:

HLAA's Rationale For OTC Hearing Aids: The Over-the-Counter Hearing Aid Act is consistent with [ADA's longstanding position](#) to implement recommendations from the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) and the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM), which have both recommended making some types of hearing aids available over the counter and removing the requirement of a medical evaluation in order to allow millions more Americans to access hearing aids. Please CLICK on this link to read more: [Guidance Articles](#)

Will Your Health Insurance Cover Hearing Aids: The second installment of Hearing Tracker's survey of 2000 hearing aid users has just been published, and it includes some interesting facts and figures. Please CLICK on the following link: [Guidance Articles](#)

Current Research:

Personal Sound Amplifiers For Adults With Hearing Loss: Age-related hearing loss is highly prevalent and often untreated. Use of hearing aids has been associated with improvements in communication and quality of life, but such treatment is unaffordable or inaccessible for many adults. The purpose of this review is to

provide a practical guide for physicians who work with older adults who are experiencing hearing and communication difficulties. Specifically, we review direct-to-consumer amplification products that can be used to address hearing loss in adults. Helping adults with hearing loss navigate hearing loss treatment options ranging from being professionally fitted with hearing aids to using direct-to-consumer amplification options is important for primary care clinicians to understand given our increasing understanding of the impact of hearing loss on cognitive, social, and physical functioning. Please CLICK on this link to read more: [Current Research](#)

FDA Regulation of Hearing Aid Devices And PSAPs: Currently, over-the-counter (OTC) devices advertised as “amplifiers” are not subject to Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulation. The Academy believes that this absence of regulation could lead to unsafe, careless, and ill-advised use of such devices, which could result in a detriment to the consumer’s overall hearing health. Please CLICK on this link to read more: [Current Research](#)

Points Of View:

The Need For Transparency In The Hearing Aid Market – By Janice Schacter

Lintz: The consumer has no idea what they are purchasing unless there is greater transparency. Trademarked proprietary names are used for features which makes it impossible to compare them. Generic names should be required. Hearing aid buyers are dependent on the audiologist/dispenser to provide information, which may present a conflict of interest because of the dispenser. Please CLICK on this link to read more: [Points Of View](#)

My Story:

Our Hearing Loss Story – By Melissa Hyder: There is not a more vulnerable and scary thing for me to do than writing. So here I am, doing what might be the most adventurous thing I could ever do – writing. I don’t have a full idea of where exactly I am going, but here are a few things you can expect from me: honesty, vulnerability, and my story.

Please CLICK on this link to read more: [My Story](#)