



Canadian Coalition for
Adult Hearing Health

Coalition Canadienne pour la
Santé Auditive des Adultes

The following materials have been reprinted, with permission, from the Care for Elders educational module “Communication: Hearing Loss in Elders (2008).”

Hearing Handicap Inventory for the Elderly (short form)

What is it?

The Hearing Handicap Inventory for the Elderly (screening version) is a short questionnaire with 10 questions, designed to screen for a hearing related handicap. The questions target the patients’ own perception of their hearing impairment and how it affects their lives.

How to get it?

The form is printed here in its entirety (with permission of its developer, Barbara Weinstein) and may be reproduced for clinical use.

How to administer the screening?

The form should be printed in a large font (minimum 14 point) to allow patients with vision problems to read it easily. For patients with literacy or vision problems which preclude their answering a written questionnaire, the questions can be presented verbally. The questions are answered yes (4 points), sometimes (2 points) or no (0 point). A final tally of points is then calculated. If the points total is higher than 8, the patient should be referred to an audiologist.

Characteristics of the test:

If a patient scores higher than 8 on the HHIE-S, there is a high likelihood that the individual has a significant hearing loss. The test has high test-retest reliability.

INSTRUCTIONS: The purpose of this scale is to identify the problems your hearing loss may be causing you. Please select YES, SOMETIMES, or NO for each question. Do not skip a question if you avoid a situation because of your hearing problem. To obtain a total score, add up the YES (4 points), SOMETIMES (2 points), and NO (0) responses. If the score is greater than 8, we recommend a referral to an audiologist for a full hearing evaluation.

	YES (4)	SOMETIMES (2)	NO (0)
Does a hearing problem cause you to feel embarrassed when you meet new people?			
Does a hearing problem cause you to feel frustrated when talking to members of your family?			
Do you have difficulty when someone speaks in a whisper?			
Do you feel handicapped by a hearing problem?			
Does a hearing problem cause you difficulty when visiting friends, relatives, or neighbors?			
Does a hearing problem cause you to attend religious services less often than you would like?			
Does a hearing problem cause you to have arguments with family members?			
Does a hearing problem cause you difficulty when listening to TV or radio?			
Do you feel that any difficulty with your hearing limits or hampers your personal or social life?			
Does a hearing problem cause you difficulty when in a restaurant with relatives or friends?			

TOTAL SCORE: HHIE-S _____ Refer to audiologist if score is greater than 8.