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Can We Re-Fit My Father's Hearing Aids?

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My mother was recently found to have a hearing loss. We still have my father's old hearing aids. Can they be used for my mother?

Hearing aids are customized for an individual user based on hearing thresholds, listening needs and other factors that your hearing health care professional will discuss. If your father's hearing instrument is a custom product, manufacturers are not generally able to re-cast the hearing aid to fit anyone other than the original user. If your father's old hearing aid is a digital or programmable hearing instrument and it is a Behind-the-Ear model it MAY be possible to obtain a custom earmold for your mother and make the programming changes necessary for the aid to fit her hearing loss, if the amplification needs of her loss are within the capabilities of the hearing instrument.

The first step in discussing appropriate amplification choices is always to consult a hearing health care provider. They will test your mother's hearing, and present the options for amplification to you. I would suggest that you take your father's old instrument to that appointment with you if it is a behind the ear model and let the dispenser advise you.

Dr. Chiquita Ewert is the National Training and Education Manager for Bernafon, LLC. She has practiced Audiology for the past 17 years in a variety of settings including private practice, research and neurological rehabilitation. She is published articles in several journals and is an active member of the Audiology community.

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