

Besides FM and infrared, a third ALD technology exists: Induction loops. Telecoils are an exciting option because, if a room or area is looped with an induction system, the user does not need any additional equipment besides the hearing aid to enjoy improved listening. As long as someone is speaking into the microphone attached to the system, the signal will be sent out from the loop of wire through the magnetic field. Newer induction systems come in a variety of styles, such as small, free-standing panels, chair pads, and floor mats. There is a movement in Holland-Zeeland, MI to loop it and other cities across America. (For more information on this initiative, go to www.hearingloop.org.)

TIPS FOR PROPER USE

- If you are working with someone who is purchasing hearing aids, make sure he or she is aware of the telecoil option and the benefits it can provide.
- The telecoil must be programmed, especially in newer hearing aids and cochlear implants. Confusion occurs when the option seems to be available, but in reality it has not been activated.
- If the sound output does not seem to be loud enough when the telecoil is used, make sure the individual checks with her audiologist regarding the

type of equipment being used and the situations where it is needed.

- Interference sometimes is a problem. Simply changing seats (or even changing head or neckloop position) can make a difference.
- Electrical equipment may give off interference in the form of static or a hum that is picked up by the telecoil. This is easily detected with the proper equipment. The department that handles setting up sound equipment for events will likely be able to assist in these situations.
- Neckloop testers (induction receivers) are available to determine if a neckloop is working or not. Plug headphones into it and place the neckloop next to the receiver to list to what is being transmitted across the FM or infrared system.
- If a room is being made accessible through an induction loop, induction receivers and headphones should be kept on hand for users who do not have telecoils.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

From PepNet

The Role of Assistive Listening in the Classroom
(1009)

Demystifying Hearing Assistance Technology
(1221)

Demystifying Assistive Listening Devices
(1073)

Serving Deaf Students who have Cochlear Implants
(1089)

Hard of Hearing Students in Postsecondary Settings
(1219)

National Task Force Reports on Quality of Services in the Postsecondary Education of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students: Report on Assistive Listening Devices
(1004)

For more information contact:

PEPNet-Northeast Central Office
Rochester Institute of Technology
National Technical Institute for the Deaf
52 Lomb Memorial Drive
Rochester, NY 14623
(585)475-6433 (V/TTY) (585)475-7660 (Fax)
pepnetnortheast@pepnet.org

