

## **AEA Position Statement on Cerumen Management**

Approved at the AEA Board Meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October 2025

The AEA recognises the following:

- Earwax is produced naturally in the external ear canal and has a protective function. However, if it occurs in excess or the ear canal is blocked, it can lead to temporary hearing loss, discomfort, limitations and delays in audiological rehabilitation.
- After the removal of excessive cerumen or cleaning of the blocked ear canal by the hearing aid professional/audiologist, hearing loss can be diagnosed and treated earlier, especially in hearing tests, hearing aid fitting and rehabilitation. This ensures timely care for those affected, thereby the efficiency of the care process and improving accessibility of hearing aid care.
- Hearing aid professionals/audiologists trained in cerumen management are certainly suited to remove earwax. Integrating this service into the care process improves continuity of care and reduces unnecessary referrals or delays.

Therefore, the AEA believes that hearing aid professionals/audiologists should be allowed to perform cerumen management under the following conditions:

- Hearing aid professionals/audiologists perform earwax removal when it is necessary, safe and effective, i.e. earwax removal may be performed if it interferes with diagnostic tests and/or hearing aid performance and improves the person's ear and hearing health without causing impairment or risk;
- Hearing aid professionals/audiologists must have the appropriate training and the necessary hygiene and sanitary conditions to be able to provide the service in question.
- Hearing aid professionals/audiologists must comply with the relevant standards and recognised guidelines.
- If contraindications are identified, the patient is referred to an ENT specialist.

The AEA advocates clear standards in terms of training, competence and professional responsibility for all hearing aid professionals/audiologists who perform cerumen management. Continuous professional development and compliance with safety guidelines are essential for the well-being of those affected.