The Council for Accreditation in Occupational Hearing Conservation

During the 1980’s, audiometer manufacturers began embracing microprocessor technology. Since then, technological innovation has introduced smart phones, tablets, and the mobile internet which has led to commercially available tablet audiometers. They are advertised as “easy-to-use audiometer(s) designed for non-Audiologists to conduct automated diagnostic hearing testing outside of a “sound booth.”” Manufacturers of these devices claim that they are clinically validated, ANSI and ISO compliant, NOAH Certified, HIPAA compliant and cost effective. So, how do these tablets and apps compare with conventional hearing conservation testing systems using microprocessor audiometers, electro-acoustic simulators and noise attenuating sound booths? Are they ready to be embraced by hearing conservation professionals?

Tablet [audiometers] are inexpensive, lightweight, portable and widely-available devices.

Tablet Audiometers

Tablet audiometers pair tablets such as the Apple iPad with a proprietary audiometer application(app). Tablets are inexpensive, lightweight, portable and widely-available devices. Their simplicity of

continued on next page
Leadership

The CAOHC leadership otherwise known as the Council consists of two representatives from each of the following Component Professional Organizations (CPOs).

- **American Association of Occupational Health Nurses (AAOHN)**
  - Elaine Brown, RN BS COHN-S/CM COHC
  - Bryan Topp, RN MSN/MPH COHN-S COHC
- **American Academy of Audiology (AAA)**
  - Laurie Wells, AuD FAAA CPS/A
  - Antony Joseph, AuD PhD CPS/A
  - *Council Past Chair*
- **American Academy of Otolaryngology - Head & Neck Surgery (AAO-HNS)**
  - James Crawford, MD CPS/A, COL (Ret)
  - Carlos Esquivel, MD, FACS, FAAOA
  - *Council Chair*
- **American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM)**
  - Bruce Kirchner, MD MPH CPS/A
  - Raúl Mirza, DO MS MPH CPS/A FACOEM
  - *Council Vice Chair*
- **American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA)**
  - Chandran Achutan, PhD CIH
  - Andrew Perkins, MS, CIH, CSP, COHC
- **American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA)**
  - Pamela duPont, MS CCC-A CPS/A
  - Carol Snyderwine, MHA MA CCC-A CPS/A
- **Institute of Noise Control Engineering (INCE)**
  - Charles Moritz, MS INCE Bd Cert
  - *Council Secretary/Treasurer*
  - Kimberly Riegel, PhD
- **Military Audiology Association (MAA)**
  - LTC J. Andrew Merkley, AuD CCC-A CPS/A
  - Maj John Foster, USAF BSC CCC-A
  - *Council Vice Chair-Education*
- **American Society of Safety Professionals (ASSP)**
  - Brent Charlton, CSP
  - Timothy Hicks, MSPH, CIH, CSP

The Food and Drug Administration defines an audiometer as an “electroacoustic device that produces controlled levels of test tones and signals intended for use in conducting diagnostic hearing evaluations and assisting in the diagnosis of possible otologic disorders” and it is classified as a Class II device. Are tablets designed to be operated as medical devices?

[Click here](#) for full article, biography and references.

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