

## **What is the difference between an audiologist and a hearing instrument specialist (or dealer)?**

An audiologist has earned an advanced degree such as a doctorate (AuD or PhD) or master's degree (MA or MS) and is licensed to work with infants, children, and adults for all hearing and balance needs. Audiologists can be found in private practice settings, ENT practices, hospitals, operating rooms, preschools, K-12 schools, universities, the military, and in the government. Audiologic evaluations are comprehensive, diagnostic, and billed to your insurance.

A hearing instrument specialist (HIS) has at minimum a high school diploma and works with the adult population for hearing aid services. Hearing tests are for the purpose of selling and programming hearing aids. Since the hearing tests are not diagnostic and not accepted by insurance companies, they are therefore free.

## **What services does Yarmouth Audiology provide?**

Our audiologists serve the adult population by performing comprehensive diagnostic hearing evaluations, industrial hearing screenings, ear wax removal, custom hearing protection, and hearing aid services (for hearing loss, tinnitus, and auditory processing). We maintain strong relationships with your primary care and ENT providers to ensure you receive the best care.

## **What if I'm having some trouble hearing, but I'm not ready for hearing aids?**

Getting a baseline diagnostic evaluation can identify if something medically should be investigated. Also, a baseline evaluation will be valuable if future hearing changes occur. Understanding your hearing is empowering.

## **What can I expect during a hearing evaluation at Yarmouth Audiology?**

We listen to you about your hearing needs. After learning more about you, your audiologist will examine your ears and then perform a hearing evaluation that includes hearing different frequencies (pitches), hearing speech in quiet and in noise, and evaluating how well your outer and middle ears function in comparison with your inner ears, using specialized testing.

Afterward your audiologist will discuss everything with you and send a complete report to your primary care provider (and any involved ENT physician). If your audiologist recommends hearing aids, you may discuss this as well. Expect to be with us for an hour and a half, to be sure all your questions are answered. Family members are welcome to be with you too. Yarmouth Audiology is here for you when you are ready. We are not a high-pressure practice.

## **What if I am ready to try hearing aids?**

We work with various global manufacturers, and your audiologist will help you choose which manufacturer and model best meets your needs. We also help determine any hearing aid benefit as part of your health insurance. We are in network with various insurances.

In Maine, it is your right to try hearing aids for 30 days. During this time, expect to see us for at least two or three visits as you get acclimated to hearing better. Your audiologist will perform real ear measurements (REM) by placing a microphone in the ear alongside the hearing aid to objectively measure the sound pressure level. This ensures the hearing aid programming is safe and appropriate.

## **Do you work with Lyric?**

Yes. Lyric is an invisible hearing aid available by subscription. Our audiologists insert the Lyric near your eardrum where it remains 24 hours a day for up to months at a time. We can discuss if Lyric might be an option for you.

**Improving your quality of life by hearing better requires a team approach. It's important that you are comfortable with and confident in your audiologist.**

**Talk with your doctor about Yarmouth Audiology.**

## Our Audiologists

### Kristie Iacuesssa, AuD

Dr. Iacuesssa received her Audiology Doctorate degree from Salus University, her Audiology Master's degree from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, and her Communication Sciences and Disorders Bachelor's Degree from Elms College. She is the practice owner and has extensive experience in the private practice setting. She has served on the Maine Licensing Board for Speech, Audiology, and Hearing Aids since 2017.

### Krista Riccioni, AuD

Dr. Riccioni received her Audiology Doctorate degree from AT Still University, and both her Audiology Master's degree and Speech Communication Sciences and Disorders Bachelor's degree from the University of Texas at Austin. Her experiences include working with Ear, Nose and Throat physicians, working in nonprofit and hospital-based speech and hearing practices, and as an educational audiologist.

## Our Office Manager

### Robyn Swallow

Ms. Swallow has worked at Yarmouth Audiology since 2000! Patients rely on her for exceptional communication, scheduling, managing insurance claims, accounting and billing, coordinating hearing aid orders, and making sure all questions are answered. She is a life-long resident of Cumberland, Maine.

## About Yarmouth Audiology

Yarmouth Audiology is an independent, locally owned practice, helping the Yarmouth and greater Portland communities hear better since 1986. Our Doctors of Audiology offer the highest level of hearing healthcare in a comfortable, home-like setting. People are frequently referred to us by their physician or through community word of mouth.

We offer services and treatment plans tailored to meet your unique hearing needs. From comprehensive audiologic evaluations to custom hearing aid fittings, our staff combines years of experience with state-of-the-art technology to find the best solution for you.

We are located in a historical, white Cape Cod house on Main Street in Yarmouth, Maine, minutes from Portland and Brunswick.



**163 Main St., Yarmouth, ME 04096**  
**207-846-1380**

[www.yarmouthaudiology.com](http://www.yarmouthaudiology.com)



**YARMOUTH  
AUDIOLOGY**

MAINE'S HOME FOR HEARING

## Frequently Asked Questions About Your First Visit

**Call 207-846-1380**  
**to schedule an appointment**

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