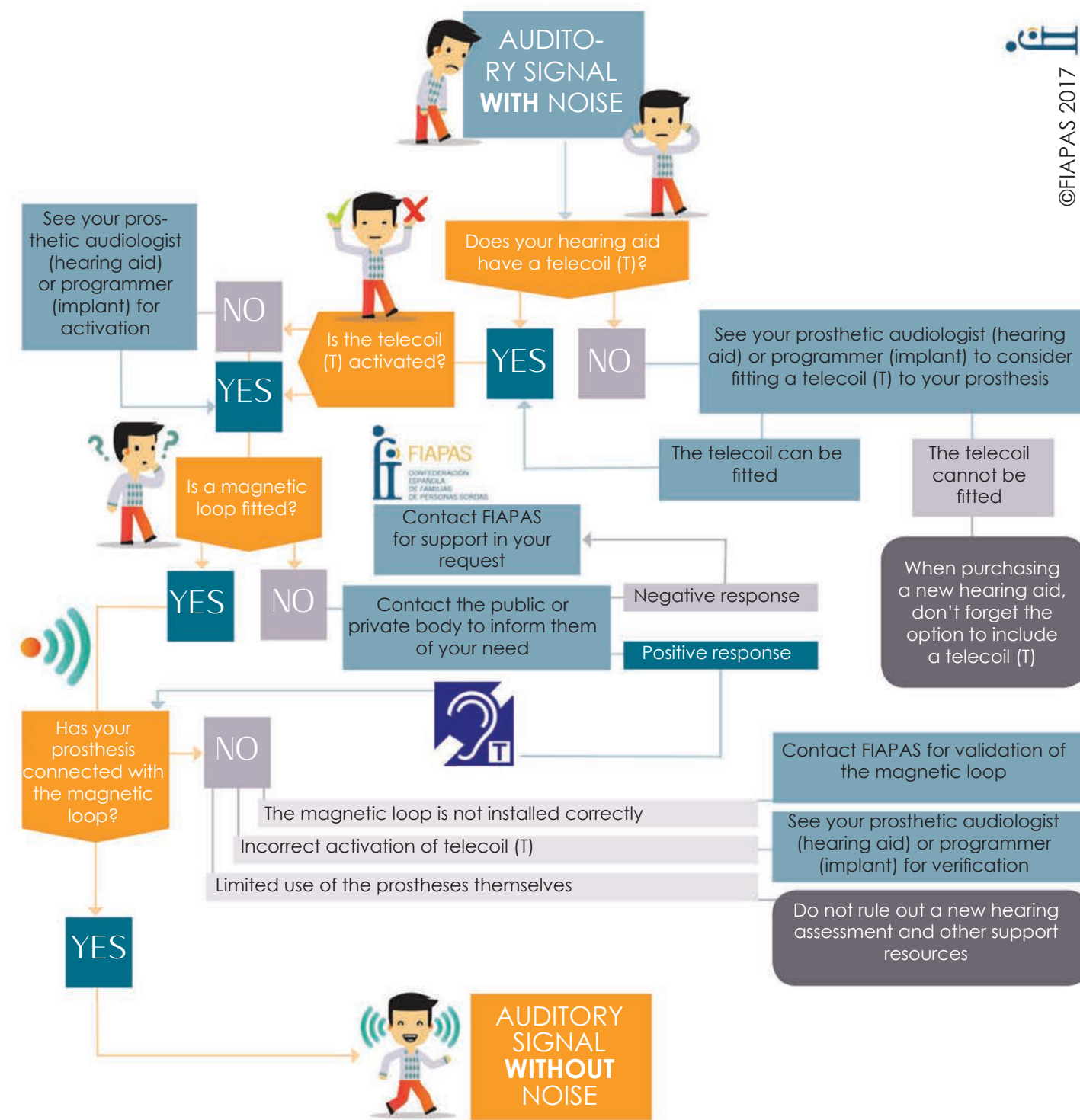


About-T: Assessing options



Incidence of deafness

In Spain there are **1,064,000 people aged over 6 years with hearing disability of different types and degrees. More than 97% of the deaf population** are people who communicate in oral language, and most of them are users of auditory prostheses (hearing aids and/or implants), according to data from the Disability, Personal Autonomy and Situations of Dependency Survey (INE, 2008).

One in every thousand people in the general population will become deaf during their life. It is estimated that **8% of the general population** have hearing problems of different kinds and degrees, with difficulty understanding a conversation in a normal tone of voice.



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Do you have hearing loss and wear a hearing aid?

ABOUT-T

What is T?

T is the letter symbolising the position of auditory prostheses (hearing aids and implants) fitted with a **telecoil**.

This coil allows deaf people using prostheses to hear their the person they are speaking to or listen to a source of sound, eliminating the adverse effects of reverberation, distance and background noise in spaces that have a **magnetic loop**.

What is the magnetic loop?

The magnetic loop is a sound system that transforms the sound signal, generating a magnetic field captured by the hearing-impaired person's prosthesis.

Current legislation on accessibility and non-discrimination against persons with disabilities guarantees deaf people using hearing aids that they can use this product to support hearing and oral communication in different areas, such as the General State Administration (for example, Citizen Service Offices), Transport (rail, maritime, air, urban, etc.), Urban Public Spaces (such as lifts), Culture (national theatres dependent on the National Institute of Performing Arts and Music - INAEM), among others.

Benefits of the magnetic loop

- 1 Globally standardised system.** Deaf people can benefit from the magnetic loop in different countries without the need for adaptations to their hearing aids.
- 2 Adaptive design for different spaces and situations.** The design of the magnetic loop can vary according to the space or situation (front desk, theatre, house, etc.), without affecting operational quality.
- 3 Ease of use.** To connect within the magnetic field of the magnetic loop, simply press the T position of the hearing aid's telecoil.
- 4 Hearing aid battery not used.** The magnetic loop does not generate more battery consumption than the functioning of the hearing aid itself.
- 5 High connection reliability.** The magnetic loop guarantees the quality of auditory signal transmission in large spaces.
- 6 Unlimited number of concurrent users.** All users of hearing aids with their telecoil activated within the magnetic field can receive the audio signal.
- 7 No delay in signal processing.** The technology of the magnetic loop does not incorporate a delay in the processing of the audio signal, and so is heard simultaneously as the sound is emitted within the space.
- 7 Range of the auditory signal.** Magnetic loop amplifiers offer high technical performance for large open areas, allowing long distances.
- 9 Increased data transmission capability.** The magnetic loop amplifies all the sound's useful bandwidth, from 200 Hz to 8,000 Hz.
- 10 Does not rely on technology updates.** The magnetic loop is a stable technology and is not subject to updates or upgrades. No obsolescence.

Answering the most frequent questions

1. In which situations can I benefit from the magnetic loop?

The magnetic loop can be used in any space or situation with ambient noise interference and where the distance to the speaker or sound source hinders or impedes communication and access to information.

Spaces and/or situations can vary widely, from the public sphere (e.g. theatre, transport stations...) to the private sphere (e.g. housing).

3. Are there different types of magnetic loop?

Yes, there are different types of magnetic loop depending on the situation and/or dimensions of the space to be adapted. They can thus be classified into:



Room loops:

They cover large-area spaces (theatres, cinemas, auditoriums, conference rooms, etc.).



Counter loops:

They are designed to cover a small area such as shop counters, box offices and front desks.



Individual use loops:

Specially designed for multimedia devices, but also for use in public and private spaces. This is the most effective system for the use of audio guides, phones, music players and other devices.

5. If I have hearing aids in both ears, do I need a telecoil (T) in both hearing aids to benefit from the magnetic loop?

It is not a need. However, it is advisable, since it can receive the sound signal accessible to both ears, giving better quality perception and the advantages of hearing in stereo.

2. How do I know if a space has a magnetic loop?

To recognise a space with a magnetic loop, it should be indicated by the **auditory accessibility** symbol.



4. If I have my hearing aid telecoil (T) turned on and a space has a magnetic loop, do they automatically connect?

This depends on the type of prosthesis and its programming. If your **hearing aid is digital**, the type of connection will depend on the programming of your hearing aid, so you need to contact your prosthetic audiologist for advice.

In the case of **analogue hearing aids**, the T (Telecoil) or MT (Microphone and Telecoil) position must be selected for the prosthesis to be connected to the magnetic loop.

With **cochlear implants**, for the most part the telecoil can be controlled manually and automatically. The **programmer** can configure it in one of two ways when programming the implant. It is therefore important to contact this specialist to set it up as needed.

It should be clarified that having the telecoil activated does not mean that it is in permanent operation.

6. How do I know if my auditory prosthesis (hearing aid or cochlear implant) has a T mode, and if it is activated?

Although the inductive coil can be incorporated into most current prostheses, you need to confirm with your audiologist or programmer whether your prosthesis has it fitted and activated.

In a cinema



In a lift



In public services



On the metro



At a meeting



In a museum



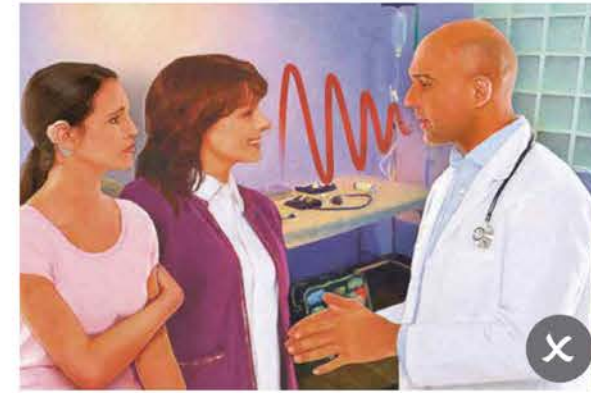
In a classroom



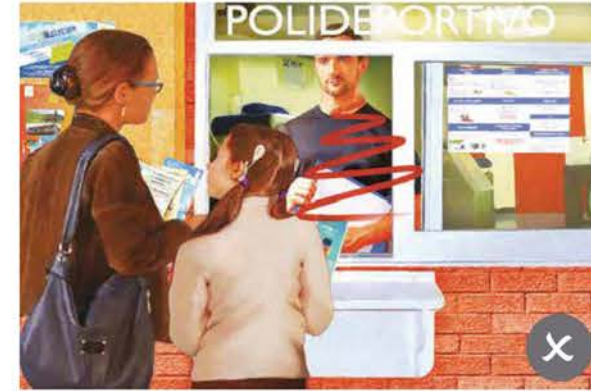
At the supermarket



At the doctor's surgery



At a box office



Answering the most frequent questions

7. If I do not have a telecoil (T), can I have it fitted to my hearing aid at any time?

It depends on the type of prosthesis.

It is therefore important that you ask your audiologist or programmer for information about the possibilities of including the telecoil in your prosthesis. And it is always advisable **to request this option when you purchase the prosthesis so as not to subsequently increase its cost.**

Some models of hearing aids, which do not have the inductive coil fitted, can be connected to an **external device** (purchased separately) with different transmission programs, including the telecoil mode.

8. If I have confirmed that I have a telecoil (T) and it is activated, what can I do if I do not benefit from the magnetic loop?

There are several reasons why you might not benefit from the magnetic loop.



The magnetic loop is not installed properly. The installation must be carried out by approved technicians and in accordance with the criteria of the current technical standard UNE-EN 60118-4:2016 (IEC 60118-4:2014), which regulates and establishes the technical specifications that a magnetic induction system must meet.



Activation of the telecoil (T). It may be necessary to verify proper operation of your prosthesis telecoil. To check this, see your audiologist or programmer for the proper adjustment.



Hearing profile and performance with prostheses. The magnetic loop cleans up the auditory signal, but does not improve the hearing profile for a deaf person using a prosthesis, nor the performance it delivers under optimal conditions.

9. If a public place I go to has no magnetic loop and I need this accessibility resource, how can I request it?

Firstly, it is important that you contact the public or private body that owns the space to inform them of your request.

You may also contact **FIAPAS** to inform them of your need for accessibility and receive support in your request.

In addition, **FIAPAS** has an **individual magnetic loop loan service** for personal procedures (e.g. medical appointments) or public administration procedures (e.g. attendance at a trial).

10. Can the telecoil experience interference with magnetic fields generated by electronic equipment?

Yes. Noise produced by a magnetic field of electrical or electronic origin is added to the sound emitted by the magnetic loop, which may make listening difficult.

To avoid this interference, the loop must be installed to comply with current technical regulations so as to eliminate or reduce noise at certain thresholds.

