

HAC Phones – Hearing Aid Compatible Phone Information

ClearTalk Wireless offers the following phones' HAC compliance information:

HAC RATINGS				
Phone	Dates offered	HAC Compatible	M Rating	T Rating
Kyocera M2000	Current Model	Yes	M4	T4
Kyocera S2300	Current Model	Yes	M4	T4
Kyocera E3100	Current Model	Yes	M4	T4
LG 260	Current Model	Yes	M3	T3
LG 9600	Current Model	Yes	M4	T4
Motorola W315	Current Model	Yes	M3	N/A
Motorola W385	Current Model	Yes	M4	T4
Motorola V3a	Current Model	Yes	M3	T3
Motorola V3m	Current Model	Yes	M4	T4
Motorola V3c	Current Model	Yes	M3	N/A
Motorola V3s	Current Model	Yes	M3	T3
Motorola QA30	Current Model	Yes	M4	T3
Motorola Crush	Current Model	Yes	M3	N/A
Samsung R351	Current Model	Yes	M4	T4
Samsung R561	Current Model	Yes	M4	T3
PCD TXT8026	Current Model	Yes	M4	N/A

Phones rated M4/T4 have the best chance of being interference-free whether used with your hearing aids in microphone or t-coil mode. Phones rated below M or T 3 – typically older model phones-- or that have no official rating may be sold, but may not be sold as HAC models. Where models have lower ratings or no applicable rating, please make note.

These handsets have been tested and rated for use with hearing aids for some of the wireless technologies that they use. However, there may be some newer wireless technologies used in these phones that have not been tested yet for use with hearing aids. It is important to try the different features of these phones thoroughly and in different locations, using your hearing aid or cochlear implant, to determine if you hear any interfering noise. Consult your service provider or the manufacturer of the handset for information on hearing aid compatibility. If you have questions about return or exchange policies, consult your service provider or phone retailer.

Which phones will probably work the best with your hearing aids?

"Which cell phones will not cause interference when you use them with your digital hearing aids (and/or cochlear implants)?" Digital devices such as cell phones and computers give off various kinds of radio frequency and electromagnetic radiation. As a result, when you hold a cell phone (or other wireless device) up to your hearing aid or cochlear implant, you often hear annoying interference. This interference is typically a buzzing, humming, or whining noise that can make understanding speech difficult, if not impossible to understand, not to mention being extremely annoying. In severe cases, interference makes your cell phone completely unusable to you when you are wearing your hearing aids.

The FCC (Federal Communications Commission) has mandated that cell phones be rated as to how much interference they are likely to cause to hearing aids. The FCC's hearing aid compatibility requirements address hearing aids that operate in either of two modes – acoustic coupling ("M" rating) or inductive coupling ("T" rating). Hearing aids operating in acoustic coupling mode receive through a microphone and then amplify all sounds surrounding the user, including both desired sounds, such as a telephone's audio signal, and unwanted ambient noise. Hearing aids operating in inductive coupling mode turn off the microphone to avoid amplifying unwanted ambient noise, instead using a telecoil to receive only audio signal-based magnetic fields generated by inductive coupling-capable telephones. The FCC's "M" and "T" ratings indicate whether a handset can be expected to function well with a hearing aid and are generally marked clearly on the handset packaging. The "M" or "T" rating does not guarantee that the handset will function without distortion or noise, so ClearTalk Wireless recommends that you test any handset before purchasing and can accommodate your testing of any device we offer.

The rating scale ranges from 1 to 4. The four possibilities are: M1 or T1 (poor), M2 or T2 (fair), M3 or T3 (good) and M4 or T4 (excellent). Some models may have no rating, but still perform well depending upon individual use.

Only phones rated 3 or 4 are allowed to be sold as hearing aid compatible (HAC).

"M" Rating (acoustic coupling)

If you use your cell phone while wearing your hearing aids in the microphone ("M") mode, look for one that is rated M3 or M4. (M4 is better.) This does not guarantee that these phones will be interference-free with your specific hearing aids. However, the higher the rating, the less likely you will be to experience interference. Also, note that just because a cell phone is not rated does not mean it will cause interference. Some may, some may not. However, unrated phones are much more likely to do so.

"T" Rating (inductive coupling)

If you use your cell phone while wearing your hearing aids in t-coil ("T") mode, look for a phone that is rated T3 or T4. (T4 is better.) Again, this will not guarantee that these phone will be interference-free when using your t-coils, but the higher the rating, the less likely it is that you will experience interference.

Note that phones rated as T3 or T4 must also be rated either M3 or M4. Therefore, phones rated as good for t-coils will also have been rated good when used with hearing aids in the microphone mode.

Phone Ratings

6 possible ratings are allowed by the FCC for cell phones rated as being hearing aid compatible (HAC). The phone could be rated (from worst to best):

- M3
- M4
- M3/T3
- M4/T3 (or M3/T4)
- M4/T4

Phones rated M4/T4 have the best chance of being interference-free whether used with your hearing aids in microphone or t-coil mode. Phones rated below M or T 3 – typically older model phones-- or that have no official rating may be sold, but may not be sold as HAC models. Where models have lower ratings or no applicable rating, please make note.

For information regarding previously carried models, please ask a representative for details and let them know specifically which model about which you are seeking information. If you have any questions regarding HAC ratings or models we offer, please feel free to ask anyone for assistance determining the best option for your use!