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| **Source:** | JCA-AHF vice chair |
| **Title:** | Mobile phones streaming to Hearing Devices compatibility |
| **Purpose:** | Discussion |
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| **Keywords:** | Mobile phones; ASHA; direct streaming; hearing aids; cochlear implants; accessibility; information |
| **Abstract:** | This document contains examples of devices that are enabled with ASHA (Audio Streaming to Hearing Aids) and discusses need for improvement in range of ASHA enabled Android devices and improvements in the information provided at the point of sale. |

# Introduction

One of the most exciting things for the Hard-of-Hearing (HoH) community about the Android 10 is the new technology called Audio Streaming to Hearing Aids (ASHA) and direct streaming for Cochlear implant processors. According to the Cochlear.com, this new protocol works on Galaxy S10, S10+ and S10e (and Google pixel) phones with the Cochlear N7 speech processor. Apple iPhone devices have had such technology for few years already.

# Discussion

The Samsung phones listed above are quite expensive. In the affordable pricing category, Samsung has already released Android 10 update to many phones. It has also released new phones (A51, A71, etc.) which come with Android 10 out of the box. Almost all of these phone have Bluetooth 5.0 and BLE.

However, direct audio streaming to Cochlear N7 doesn't seem to work on these phones which is a great disappointment to the hard of hearing community.

While Apple ensured many of their devices are compatible with ASHA and cover all price ranges, the same cannot be said with Samsung devices. Samsung and Google Pixel phones are the very few Android phones accessible to Cochlear implant users and Samsung needs to speed up the release an update enabling the ASHA protocol on the Galaxy M and A series phones which are in more affordable range.

Finding out which specific Android phone is compatible with ASHA is not easily achieved. Hearing aids and Cochlear implants manufacturers are trying to provide the information but it is not always exhaustive, meaning users risk buying the wrong phone. Other Android smartphones need to include this feature.

Below are examples of how much research needs to be done by the user before buying a new phone.

1. Link to Cochlear site with compatibility list ( non-exhaustive) <https://www.cochlear.com/apps/en/sound-processor-and-app/compatibility>

2. Link to Oticon site with compatibility list <https://www.oticon.com/support/compatibility>

3. GARI website <https://www.gari.info/> users cannot find the information related to ASHA.

# Conclusion / Proposal /Proposals

Manufacturers of smartphones and other electronic devices capable of providing ASHA feature need to provide the information as part of specifications provided at the point of sale.

ASHA needs to be provided in a wider range of products by manufacturers, allowing users choice based of affordability.

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