

Looking for a Compatible Cell Phone?

The bewildering variety of cell phone features and service contracts is challenging even for persons with normal hearing. You need to balance what you need, what you don't need, and what you can afford or care to spend.

If you wear a hearing aid or cochlear implant, you also need to consider compatibility. Phones have an M rating (for microphone use) and a T rating (for use with a T-switch). A rating of 3 is acceptable, but 4 is better. Thus the best phones have both an M4 and a T4 rating. Not rated? Not compatible.

Cochlear implant processors are more susceptible to interference from cell phones. Flip and clamshell phones are less likely to produce significant interference because the earpiece is further away from components that could cause interference.

In any case "Try before you buy". Cochlear America has a website that provides additional guidance: <http://products.cochlearamericas.com/support/cochlear-implants/compatible-cell-phones> . Another website called Phonescoop allows you to plug in the features you want or don't want (be sure to select the compatibility features under "accessibility") and get a short list of candidates: <http://www.phonescoop.com/phones/finder.php> .