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OHLA, Advisory Council on Hearing Aids to Review Proposed Rules to Expand Purchase Protections

Salem, OR, Wednesday, June 7, 2006—The Oregon Health Licensing Agency (OHLA) and the Advisory Council on Hearing Aids are considering changes to Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) to standardize the type of hearing tests administered prior to a consumer's purchase of a hearing aid and to expand the safeguards of hearing aid purchase agreements.

These issues and more will be discussed at an **OHLA Advisory Council on Hearing Aids Rules Committee** meeting that is open to the public on **Friday, June 9, at 9 am**, at OHLA in Salem.

Proposed regulatory changes include requiring a *Delivery Receipt* in addition to the already mandated *Statement to Prospective Purchaser*. The delivery receipt would provide consumers with specific information on the amount a hearing aid dispenser may retain if the purchaser returns a hearing aid(s) within the 30-day rescission (return)-rights period, as well as the date the rescission-rights period ends and the date of the required post-delivery follow-up session.

OHLA, with advice from the Council, is also looking to standardize the type of hearing tests that are administered by hearing aid dispensers. The goal is to provide consumers with uniform information that is more understandable and useful in the hearing aid fitting and purchasing process.

Other issues to be discussed at the Rules Committee meeting include:

- The type of chart notes that are required to be kept by dispensers
- The maximum amount that may be retained by a hearing aid dispenser if a purchaser returns a hearing aid(s) (currently set at 20 percent of the total purchase price or \$500, whichever amount is less)

The last day for public comment on the proposed rule revisions is June 28, when a public hearing will be held at OHLA in Salem. There are currently 375 licensed hearing aid dispensers in Oregon.

For more information on the proposed rules, regulation of hearing aid sales and the OHLA central licensing and regulatory department, please visit www.oregon.gov/OHLA/HAS.

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