DEVICE	DEFINITION
HEARING AID	A small electronic device that is worn in or behind the ear. It makes some sounds louder so that a person with hearing loss can listen, communicate, and participate more fully in daily activities. The hearing aid receives sound through a microphone, which converts the sound waves to electrical signals and sends them to an amplifier. The amplifier increases the power of the signals and then sends them to the ear through a speaker.
HEARING AID TELECOIL	The telecoil inside a hearing aid picks up the loop signal and then changes it into an electrical signal that is then processed inside of the hearing aid and eventually delivered to the listener's ear as sound.
PERSONAL AMPLIFIER (I.E., POCKETALKER)	About the size of a cell phone, these devices increase sound levels and reduce background noise for a listener. Some have directional microphones that can be angled toward a speaker or other source of the sound.
PERSONAL FM SYSTEM (I.E., ROGER PEN)	A wireless microphone that is used in combination with hearing aids or cochlear implants, that helps individuals to hear and understand more speech among noise and over distance.
WIDE AREA LISTENING SYSTEM	A type of listening system that is often set up in auditoriums, conference rooms, dining halls, waiting areas or consultation rooms. These systems utilize a transmitter or a strategically placed hidden copper wire to transmit sound from a performance, presenter or program directly to multiple people with hearing loss. Receivers in the form of body worn devices with headphones/earbuds or hearings aids are the receptors of the sound.
HEARING LOOP (OR INDUCTION LOOP) SYSTEMS	A type of wide area listening system that uses electromagnetic energy to transmit sound. A hearing loop system involves four parts: 1) the sound source, such as a public address system, microphone, or home TV or telephone; 2) an amplifier; 3) a thin loop of wire that encircles a room or branches out beneath carpeting; 4) a receiver worn in the ears or as a headset.
RADIO FREQUENCY (FM) SYSTEMS	A type of wide area listening system that uses radio signals to transmit amplified sounds. They are often used by several people at once in auditorium-like settings. The presenter wears a small microphone connected to a transmitter and the person with hearing loss wears the receiver, which is tuned to a specific frequency or channel. The system can also be used 1:1 during medical provider-patient conversations.
INFRARED SYSTEM	A type of wide area listening system uses infrared light to transmit sound. A transmitter converts sound into a light signal and beams it to a receiver that is worn by a listener. The receiver decodes the infrared signal back to sound.

National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders, National Institutes of Health. Hearing, Ear Infections, and Deafness: Communication Methods & Devices for People with Hearing Loss. https://www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/hearing-ear-infections-deafness

Hearing Loss Association of America. Comparison of Large Area Assistive Listening Systems. https://www.hearingloss.org/wp-content/uploads/GITHL_Comparison_of_LargeAreaALS.pdf?pdf=GITHLcompareALS