Appendix

**Health Utilities Index Mark 3 (HUI3)** is a generic preference-based measure of functional health (Feeny et al., 2002; Feng et al., 2009). The HUI3 hearing attribute questions are as follows:

“*Are you usually able to hear what is said in a group conversation with at least 3 other people without a hearing aid*?” For those who responded “no”, follow-up questions were asked to establish their functional hearing level: “*Are you usually able to hear what is said in a group conversation with at least 3 other people with a hearing aid*?”, “*Are you able to hear at all*?”, “*Are you usually able to hear what is said in a conversation with one other person in a quiet room without a hearing aid*?”, and “*Are you usually able to hear what is said in a conversation with one other person in a quiet room with a hearing aid?*”

Responses were scored according to an established algorithm and classified as level 1 (no hearing problems) to level 6 (unable to hear at all). A dichotomous variable identified individuals with hearing problems (levels 2 to 6) versus no hearing problems (level 1).