



GRAHAM-FIELD

Ongoing Education



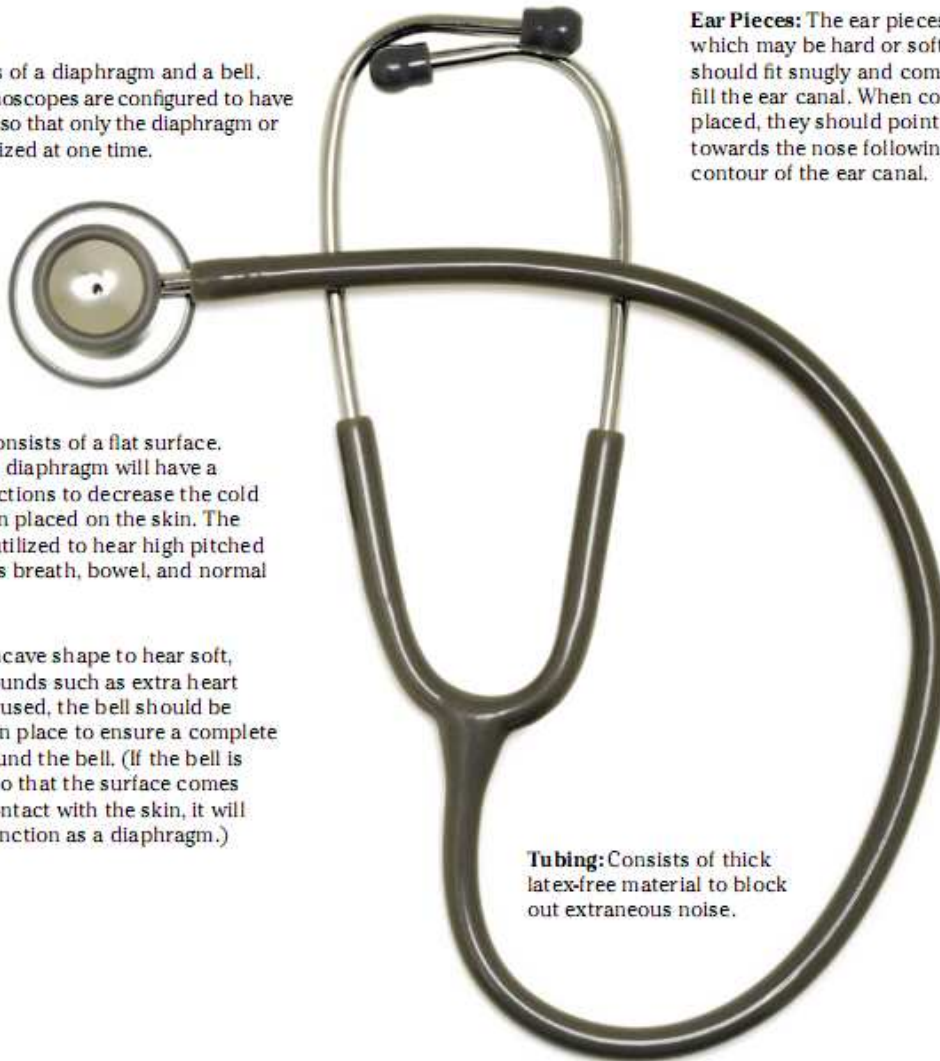
Stethoscopes

Stethoscopes are utilized to hear sounds within the body that cannot be easily heard with the human ear alone.

The acoustic stethoscope, most commonly utilized for evaluation, is a closed cylinder that transmits sound waves from the source through the tubing to the examiner's ears. Acoustic stethoscopes do not magnify the sound; however, the closed architecture blocks out extraneous noise allowing the desired sound to be more easily heard.

Head: Consists of a diaphragm and a bell. Dual head stethoscopes are configured to have a closure valve so that only the diaphragm or bell may be utilized at one time.

Ear Pieces: The ear pieces, which may be hard or soft, should fit snugly and completely fill the ear canal. When correctly placed, they should point towards the nose following the contour of the ear canal.



Diaphragm: Consists of a flat surface. Commonly the diaphragm will have a ring which functions to decrease the cold sensation when placed on the skin. The diaphragm is utilized to hear high pitched sounds such as breath, bowel, and normal heart sounds.

Bell: Has a concave shape to hear soft, low-pitched sounds such as extra heart sounds. When used, the bell should be held securely in place to ensure a complete seal exists around the bell. (If the bell is firmly placed so that the surface comes in complete contact with the skin, it will convert and function as a diaphragm.)

Tubing: Consists of thick latex-free material to block out extraneous noise.