1. **Treat musicians with the same level of care as you would any other patient (standard of care).**
   a. Thorough case history (genetics, chemicals, solvents, ototoxic medications, diabetes, heart disease, smoking)
   b. Audiometry, middle ear measures, OAEs, QuickSIN

2. **Musicians may need more than one set of filters for their Musicians Earplugs.**
   a. Different sound levels in practice and performance venues
   b. See brochure for recommendations

3. **Request different colors for each filter set (e.g., clear for ER-15, tan for ER-9, etc.) so they’re easy to identify.**

4. **Excellent earmold impressions are a critical factor to success.**
   a. They must be long (past the second bend) and completely filled
   b. If they’re not perfect, remake them

5. **Use vented ear dams for “hourglass” or unusually-shaped ear canals. Use flattened, lubricated cotton for the rest.**

6. **Order silicone earmolds (vinyl shrinks).**

7. **Perform a QC check of the earmolds prior to scheduling the patient for a fitting.**
   a. Check overall appearance, canal length and sound bores
   b. Make sure filters fit snugly
   c. Are they attractive? Would you wear them?

8. **Ask the lab to provide the acoustic mass meter results (500-750 mV is the target value).**
   a. Small ear canals may require shorter molds to reach the target value
   b. Shorter molds increase the occlusion effect, but this may be a necessary compromise

9. **Filters should be countersunk if at all possible, to aid in retention and reduce accidental loss.**

10. **Verify the fit and response of Musicians Earplugs (remake if necessary).**
    a. Fit, seal, comfort (may need to ease in to a wearing schedule & use lubricant)
    b. Sound field or real-ear measurements of seal/attenuation
    c. Real-ear measures to quantify occlusion effect if necessary

11. **Educate the user**
    a. What to expect (accommodation, adaptation, wearing schedule)
    b. Use and care of earmolds
    c. What to do if there is a problem

12. **Consider providing a pair of ETY-Plugs to use as a backup or spare.**