

Children's audiology

Your baby's hearing assessment

Information for patients, relatives and carers

Hearing assessment – introduction

Your baby has been referred to our services for a hearing assessment from the newborn hearing screen. This leaflet will give you some details about your baby's next appointment. It does not replace the discussion with your care team.

Why your baby needs a follow up appointment

Your baby did not have a clear response in one or both ears during the newborn hearing screening check. Or there are some early signs that require further audiology testing, or both.

Why it's important to check your baby's hearing

Hearing is crucial for developing speech and language. If hearing loss is detected, we can help to support your baby's development. Taking early action will help with better results. This is why we screen for hearing loss at birth.

During the appointment

You and your child will be seen by our paediatric audiologists. They will take a medical history of your baby. Then they will perform one or more of the following tests:

Otoacoustic emissions (OAE)

This is the same test that your baby had when their hearing was screened after birth. It checks the inner ear and can be used as an ear-specific measurement.

Tympanometry

This is a quick pressure test, which gives information about the status of your child's middle ear. A soft probe will be inserted in your child's ears for a few seconds. This will measure the middle ear function.

Auditory brainstem response test (ABR)

The ABR test measures the response of the hearing nerve to sounds. We can only perform this test if your baby is asleep or very relaxed. We will place three sticky sensors on your baby's head. We will then present sounds in your baby's ears and run the test.

Preparing for the appointment

The first appointment can take up to 1 hour 30 minutes. We recommend you bring nappies and a bottle to help settle your baby. If possible, try to keep your baby awake before the appointment so they are sleepy for the test.

The results

In most cases the results will be explained to you on the day by an audiologist, after testing has been completed. If your baby is unsettled or there is a hearing loss, we may need to organise a further appointment. A final report will be sent to your home address, and a copy will be sent to your GP. Please make sure that we have your correct contact details.

Further information

For more information about your baby's hearing test, please visit:

www.ndcs.org.uk/documents-and-resources/understanding-your-childs-hearing-tests/

Contact details

If you are unable to attend your appointment or have any questions or concerns, please call us at the following number:

Tel: 020 3311 1020

Email: childrens.hearing@nhs.net

Please let us know if you need an interpreter for this appointment.

How to find our service

The Children's hearing clinic is at Charing Cross Hospital. We are on the Second floor of the North Wing.

See www.imperial.nhs.uk/our-locations/charing-cross-hospital

How do I make a comment about my visit?

We aim to provide the best possible service, and staff will be happy to answer any of the questions you may have. If you have any **suggestions** or **comments** about your visit, please either speak to a member of staff or contact the patient advice and liaison service (**PALS**) on **020 3312 7777** (10.00 – 16.00, Monday to Friday). You can also email PALS at imperial.pals@nhs.net The PALS team will listen to your concerns, suggestions or queries and is often able to help solve problems on your behalf.

Alternatively, you may wish to complain by contacting our complaints department:

Complaints department, fourth floor, Salton House, St Mary's Hospital, Praed Street
London W2 1NY

Email: ICHC-tr.Complaints@nhs.net

Telephone: **020 3312 1337 / 1349**

Alternative formats

This leaflet can be provided on request in large print or easy read, as a sound recording, in Braille or in alternative languages. Please email the communications team:
imperial.communications@nhs.net

Wi-fi

Wi-fi is available at our Trust. For more information visit our website: www.imperial.nhs.uk

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