

## Children's audiology

# Your child's hearing assessment appointment

## Information for patients, relatives and carers

### Hearing assessment – introduction

Your child has been referred for a hearing assessment. This leaflet explains what will happen at your child's appointment. The information in this leaflet does not replace any discussion you have with your child's care team.

### What should I do before the appointment?

**Do you need an interpreter for the appointment?** Please tell us if you need one.

**Have we got your up-to-date contact details?** This is your address, phone contact and GP's name. Please check.

### How much time do I need for the appointment?

The appointment will last about 30 to 45 minutes.

### What will happen?

Your child will be seen by a children's (paediatric) audiologist or an audio-vestibular doctor. They will take your child's medical history and ask about your main concerns. They will then examine your child's ears

When the audiologist or doctor have enough information about your child's history, symptoms and developmental age, they will decide which tests to do. They could do one or more of the following:

#### **Tympanometry**

This is a quick pressure test. It gives information about your child's ear drum and middle ear. A soft probe will be inserted in your child's ears for a few seconds and a sound will be presented.

#### **Otoacoustic emissions**

This is the same test that your child had when their hearing was screened after birth. A soft probe will be placed into your child's ear for 5 to 10 seconds and a sound will be presented. The probe will record the response from your child's ear. This test checks that the inner ear is working properly.

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## **Visual reinforcement audiometry (VRA)**

This test measures hearing levels in babies and young children. Your child will listen to sounds and be encouraged to turn towards the sound by the reward of seeing a toy or cartoon.

## **Play audiometry**

This test measures hearing levels in young children. Your child will be instructed to respond to a sound using a simple toy, such as putting a man in a boat.

## **Pure tone audiometry (PTA)**

This test measures hearing levels in school age children and young adults. The hearing in each ear is tested using headphones. During the test your child will be asked to press a button in response every time they hear a sound.

## **When will I get the results?**

The results will be explained in the appointment. You'll be given or sent a copy of the report, which will also be sent to your GP.

## **What happens after the appointment?**

Every child is different. Your child may need another appointment before we can complete the hearing assessment. So:

- your child may be added to a waiting list, or
- an appointment may be booked for the next assessment

If your child has a temporary or permanent hearing loss, the audiologist or audio-vestibular doctor will discuss the next steps with you.

We might recommend a referral for further investigation or management. We will discuss this with you and make a referral to the right service.

Everything will be explained to you, and nothing will be done without your consent.

## **Further information**

For more information about hearing assessments for children, please visit:  
[www.ndcs.org.uk/information-and-support/childhood-deafness/hearing-tests/](http://www.ndcs.org.uk/information-and-support/childhood-deafness/hearing-tests/)

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## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:imperial.communications@nhs.net)

## Wi-fi

Wi-fi is available at our Trust. For more information visit our website: [www.imperial.nhs.uk](http://www.imperial.nhs.uk)

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