
Hearing aid fitting appointment

The purpose of this appointment is to program hearing aid(s) to your child's hearing levels and show you how to use and maintain them.

This appointment will usually take place after a hearing assessment appointment with an audiologist, ear, nose and throat (ENT) doctor or an audio- vestibular physician, if it was agreed that your child would benefit from trying hearing aids.

Before the appointment

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

Please make sure your child's ears are clear of wax, to allow us to complete the procedures.

Ask your GP or practice nurse to check your ears if you suspect wax may be present.

In preparation please discuss this appointment with your child if possible.

How long is the appointment?

The appointment will last approximately 60 minutes, depending on your child's hearing loss and requirements.

What to bring to the appointment

If your child already wear hearing aids, please bring them with you.

If you anticipate that your child may become confused and distressed by the appointment or being in an unknown clinical setting, you can bring something (e.g. a toy) to the appointment that will help calm them.

During the appointment

You will be seen by a paediatric audiologist (there may be two), who will review the difficulties your child is having with their hearing. Your hearing aids will then be fitted by carrying out the following procedure:

- The hearing aids will be measured to their ears and we will check they are fitting comfortably
- Their latest hearing test results will be used to create a computer prescription, and the hearing aids will be programmed accordingly
- Depending on your child's developmental age and hearing loss, the audiologist may perform further age appropriate tests (including speech testing) to confirm the hearing aid fitting

- Simple checks will be carried out to ensure that the sound is comfortable for your child
- You and your child (if appropriate) will be shown how to use and maintain the hearing aids and full written instructions will be provided
- A referral to other suitable services may also be discussed with you. We work closely with speech and language therapists and teachers of the deaf (TOD) and may recommend a referral to their services

Please note that it takes time to become used to new hearing aids. Therefore, they may sound and feel strange at first, until your child's brain adapts to the change. Please see our 'Getting your child to wear their hearing aids' leaflet for further advice.

Wearing the hearing aids regularly is likely to speed up the process of adapting to the new sounds.

What will happen after the appointment?

We will book a follow-up appointment for you within two to six weeks (either face to face or on the telephone) to see how you are getting on with the hearing aids. We can resolve possible issues and answer any questions you may have. If you have

any queries please contact us prior to the follow-up appointment.

After this appointment, you may contact the audiology department for hearing aid batteries or spare parts to be sent to you by post if you need them.

If you require maintenance or repair of your hearing aids, you can post them to us.

You may also contact the administrative team for an appointment with the clinician if you need adjustments to settings.

We will continue to review your child's hearing every few months (this is dependent on the nature of their hearing loss, level of hearing loss and their age).

Contact details

Charing Cross Hospital

Paediatric Audiology Department
Paediatric Audiology Department
2nd floor, South wing
Fulham Palace Road
Hammersmith
W6 8RF
Tel: 0203 311 1021
Email: childrens.hearing@nhs.net

St Mary's Hospital

Children's Hearing
Children's Outpatients
6th Floor

Queen Elizabeth Queen Mother Building
Department of Paediatrics
Praed Street
London W2 1NY
Tel: 020 3312 2448
Email: smpaedtric.audiology@nhs.net

How to find Paediatric Audiology

At Charing Cross Hospital we are on the Second Floor in the South Wing

In St Mary's Hospital we are on the sixth floor of Queen Elizabeth Queen Mother Building

If you require **hospital transport**, please call **020 3311 5353** for an eligibility check.

How do I make a comment about my experience?

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 3313 0088**. You can also email PALS at imperial.pals@nhs.net

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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Information for
patients, relatives and
carers