
Hearing Assessment

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.

Before the Appointment

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

Please make sure that we have your contact details up-to-date (GP, address, phone contact).

Appointment duration

The appointment will last approximately 30 to 45 minutes.

During the appointment

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

Depending on your child's history, symptoms and developmental age one or more of the following tests may be performed:

Tympanometry

This is a quick pressure test, which 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 inserted into your child's ear for 5 -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.

Visual reinforcement audiometry (VRA)

This test measures hearing levels in babies and young children. Your child will listen to sounds and will be conditioned to turn towards the sound by rewarding them with a toy.

Play audiometry

This test measures hearing levels in young children. Your child will be instructed to respond to a sound using 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 respond every time they hear

a sound by pressing a button.

When you will get the results

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

After the appointment

Every child is different and we may need to arrange another appointment for your child before completing the hearing assessment. 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 paediatric audiologist or audio-vestibular physician will discuss the next steps with you.

If a referral for further investigation or management has been recommended, this will also be discussed with you and onward referral made to the appropriate service.

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

Further information

If you would like more information about hearing assessments for children, please visit the following website.

<https://www.ndcs.org.uk/>

Contact details

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

Charing Cross Hospital

Tel: 0203 311 1020

Email: childrens.hearing@nhs.net

St Mary's Hospital and Woodfield Road Medical Centre:

Tel: 0203 312 2448

Email: smpaediatic.audiology@nhs.net

How to find Paediatric Audiology

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

At St Mary's Hospital we are in the Paediatric Outpatients, QEQM Building, 6th Floor.

Woodfield Road Medical Centre is located near Westbourne Park Underground Station or on buses 18 and 36.

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

Paediatric Audiology

Your child's hearing assessment appointment

Information for parents, guardians, relatives and carers

Paediatric Audiology
Published: April 2021
Review date: April 2023
Reference no: 5122

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