
Hearing assessment

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 need a follow up appointment

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

Why it is 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 which is why we screen for hearing loss at birth.

During the appointment

You and your child will be seen by our paediatric audiologists who will take a medical history of your baby. They will then 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 your child's middle ear status. A soft probe will be inserted in your child's ears for a few seconds which 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 one 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 further information regarding your baby's hearing test, please visit: <https://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:

Charing Cross Hospital

Tel: 0203 311 1020

Email: childrens.hearing@nhs.net

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

How to find our Service

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

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 baby's hearing assessment

Information for parents, guardians and carers

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