

Newborn Hearing Screening Programme (NHSP) Clinic

A parent's guide to the Newborn Hearing Clinic
Paediatric Audiology



Patient information leaflet

What is the Newborn Hearing Clinic?

Your baby has been referred to the Audiology Department from the Newborn Hearing Screening Programme because the second type of screening test did not show a clear response from one or both ears. This means that further tests are required, and does not necessarily mean your baby has a hearing loss.

What happens during this Clinic?

The tests carried out at the Audiology clinic may look similar to those used for your baby's screening test but will be able to give more detailed information about your baby's hearing.

One of the tests involves small sticky pads being placed on your baby's forehead and behind both ears. This is called the Auditory Brainstem Response (ABR) test. Headphones or insert earphones are used to play a series of tones into your baby's ears. A computer measures how well your baby's ears respond to these sounds.

Another test that may be used involves putting a small soft-tipped earpiece in the outer part of your baby's ear. The earpiece changes the pressure in the outer ear slightly to test whether or not middle ear congestion is present. This test is called tympanometry.



Sometimes an Otoacoustic Emission (OAE) test is carried out. This involves putting a small soft-tipped earpiece in the outer part of your baby's ear. A clicking sound is played into your baby's ear and the earpiece checks to see whether the inner ear sends a response back (like an echo).

How long will this hearing test take?

Your baby needs to be asleep for the tests, so we usually allow at least 90 minutes for the appointment. This includes time to settle your baby.

Are there any risks?

The tests are carried out while your baby is asleep, and will not hurt or be uncomfortable. You will stay with your baby while the tests are done. The sounds played into your baby's ears are no louder than they need to be. Testing is always carried out by an experienced audiologist and within national guidelines.

What are the benefits?

It can be worrying to think that your baby may have a hearing difficulty. By completing further tests, we can give you a clear picture of your baby's hearing levels. If their hearing is satisfactory, this can be reassuring for you. If there is a hearing difficulty, we can give you recommendations to ensure that your baby has the best opportunity to hear and communicate as well as possible.

Are there any alternatives?

It is your choice whether your baby's hearing is tested. However we strongly recommend that testing is completed. If you want to opt out of testing, please do contact us to discuss your choice.

What shall I bring to the appointment?

Please bring things that will help you settle your baby, such as milk, a dummy and a pram. Your baby does not need to be asleep when you arrive, but will need to fall asleep for us to carry out the tests.

You are welcome to bring a partner, friend or relative with you to the appointment, but it will be easier if you do not bring older children with you.

What will happen after the tests?

The Audiologist will explain the test results to you on the day. All results are reviewed within the Paediatric Audiology team after the appointment, and sometimes we need to arrange another appointment to complete more testing. If this is the case, we will phone you to explain why.

Contact details

Paediatric Audiology Department

Royal Surrey County Hospital, Egerton Road, Guildford, GU2 7XX.

Telephone: 01483 571122 **ext** 4880

There is an answerphone attached; please do leave a message if we are unable to answer your call.

E-mail: rsc-tr.paedenquiries@nhs.net

We endeavour to respond to all messages received within one working day. For further information about the Trust, visit www.royalsurrey.nhs.uk

PALS and Advocacy contact details

Contact details of independent advocacy services can be provided by our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) who are located on the right hand side as you enter the main reception area. PALS are also your first point of contact for health related issues, questions or concerns surrounding RSCH patient services.

Telephone: 01483 402757

Email: rsc-tr.pals@nhs.net

Opening hours: 9.00am–3.00pm, Monday to Friday

If you would like information documents in large print, on tape or in another language or form please contact PALS.

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