

Conditions in children that can be associated with hearing loss

Information for parents and carers

① For more information, please contact:

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Caring with pride

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Please note: If a child is not brought for two consecutive appointments to monitor their hearing, they will be discharged from the service.

Why is my child's hearing being monitored?

Some conditions or syndromes can be associated with hearing loss.

There are three types of hearing loss:

1) Conductive hearing loss

Hearing is reduced because of a problem with the outer ear, the ear canal, the eardrum or the middle ear, or a combination of these. A conductive hearing loss is not considered to be a problem with one or both of the hearing organs (the cochlea) or the nerve that leads from them to the brain.

2) Sensorineural Hearing Loss

The hearing loss is due to a problem with one or both of the hearing organs (the cochlea) and/or the nerve that leads from the cochlea to the brain.

3) Mixed Hearing Loss

The hearing loss is the result of both a conductive problem and a sensorineural problem.

If hearing loss is not diagnosed or managed, it can have a negative effect on a child's social and language development. Therefore, we monitor children that have conditions or syndromes associated with hearing loss. How often we review a child's hearing depends upon the condition, age of the child and the level of hearing.

This leaflet lists some of the conditions and syndromes that are monitored. For further information, please see www.NDCS.org.uk.

Down's syndrome

Many children with Down's syndrome also have some degree of deafness. People with Down's syndrome are more prone to conductive hearing loss due to their small ear canals and immature middle ear structures. They can also show premature ageing such as developing a sensorineural hearing loss.

Your child's hearing will be monitored twice a year until they are five years old. After that, we will do an annual check until they transfer to an adult's clinic for continued monitoring of their hearing.

Cleft palate

Children with a cleft palate are more likely to develop a conductive hearing loss as a result of middle ear effusion (glue ear) compared with the general population. This is most common between birth and two years old, even after palate repair. The problem may persist into late teenage years. Therefore, we will test children twice a year until they are six years old and then annually until they are 11 years of age. If at 11 years old the hearing is consistently satisfactory, your child will be discharged from our service.

Children with cleft lip alone, without a cleft palate, do not need to be monitored.

Congenital infections

Confirmed congenital infections including Cytomegalovirus (CMV), toxoplasmosis, and rubella are conditions that can cause hearing loss.

Therefore, all children diagnosed with a confirmed infection from birth will have a hearing test every six months until they are three years old. From the age's three to six, children should be seen annually. At age six, they will be discharged if their hearing is consistently satisfactory.

Other conditions or syndromes

There are many other conditions or syndromes that can be associated with hearing loss. If your child has any of these conditions or syndromes, we will monitor their hearing annually until adulthood. If you have any questions about this please speak to your audiologist or see www.NDCS.org.uk for further information.

What is the monitoring process for children with a hearing loss but without hearing aids?

A child who has a confirmed hearing loss but does not require any hearing assistance, such as hearing aids, will be monitored every six months until they are five years old and then annually until they reach adulthood. The purpose of this ongoing monitoring is to ensure that the hearing remains stable and to introduce assistance if necessary.

Tell us what you think of this leaflet

We hope that you found this leaflet helpful. If you would like to tell us what you think, please contact:
Audiology Department, The York Hospital, Wigginton Road,
York, YO31 8HE, telephone 01904 726741 or email:
hearingaidrepairs@york.nhs.uk.

Teaching, training, and research

Our Trust is committed to teaching, training, and research to support the development of health and healthcare in our community. Healthcare students may observe consultations for this purpose. You can opt out if you do not want students to observe. We may also ask you if you would like to be involved in our research.

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

PALS offers impartial advice and assistance to patients, their relatives, friends and carers. We can listen to feedback (positive or negative), answer questions and help resolve any concerns about Trust services.

PALS can be contacted on 01904 726262, or email
pals@york.nhs.uk.

An answer phone is available out of hours.

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Owner	Emily Wilson, Senior Audiologist
Date first issued	August 2019
Review Date	July 2021
Version	1 (issued August 2019)
Approved by	Audiology MDT
Document Reference	PIL 1347 v1

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