

Your Baby's Visit to the Audiology Clinic

(for babies referred without a hearing screening test)

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This leaflet is for parents of a baby who needs a hearing test and has not had a newborn hearing screen.

It explains:

- Why your baby needs a hearing test
- When and where the test is done
- What happens after the test

Why does my baby need a hearing test?

Most babies have a newborn hearing screen soon after birth. Some babies are referred for a hearing test without having a hearing screen first.

When and where the test will be done

The test will be done in a special hospital clinic. We will send an appointment for the test within four weeks after your baby has been referred.

How the test is done



The test is done by an audiologist (hearing specialist). The test is done while your baby is settled or asleep. The appointment usually takes about two hours and includes time to settle your baby to sleep. You can stay with your baby while the test is done.

Three small sticky pads are put on your baby's head. Earphones are put in or over your baby's ears, which will make different sounds. A computer shows the audiologist how your baby's ears are responding to the sound.



A small soft-tipped earpiece may be put in the outer part of your baby's ear. This will show whether there is fluid in your baby's ear.



If one or both of your baby's outer ears have not formed properly, not all of the tests described will be used.

What happens after the test?

If both of your baby's ears show a clear response, this means that your baby is unlikely to have a hearing loss. The audiologist will give you information on how babies respond to sound as they grow. They will tell you what to do if you have any worries about your baby's hearing.



The test may not show a clear response from one or both of your baby's ears. The audiologist will explain what this means. There are different types and levels of hearing loss. More tests may be needed before you know about your baby's hearing. The audiologist will plan with you the best time for your baby to have more tests.

Further tests that are used



A small sound maker may be placed behind your baby's ear. This test shows the audiologist how your baby's inner ears are responding to the sound.

A small soft-tipped earpiece may be put in the outer part of your baby's ear. This makes a clicking sound. A computer or handheld device shows the audiologist how your baby's ears are responding to the sound.

After the test, the audiologist will answer any questions you have. If your baby has a hearing loss, you will be offered support and given more information.

Finding out more

If you would like more information or want to talk to someone about your baby's hearing, you can contact:

North Wales: 03000 848710

South West Wales: 01792 343364

South East Wales: 02921 843568

You can also contact the National Deaf Children's Society (NDCS). The society has a helpline for parents and families who would like information about hearing tests and any type of childhood hearing loss.

NDCS Freephone helpline: 0808 800 8880

NDCS website: www.ndcs.org.uk

Using your information

For us to contact you as part of the programme, we will need to handle some of your and your baby's personal information. If you need more information about this, you can:

- Visit the website: phw.nhs.wales/use-of-site/privacy-notice;
- Email: PHW.InformationGovernance@wales.nhs.uk; or
- Phone: 02920 104307.

We also keep your baby's personal details to make sure that the standard of our service is as high as possible. This includes checking your baby's records if your baby is found to have a hearing loss after having a screening test which showed a normal result.

You can find out more on our website at www.newbornhearingscreening.wales.nhs.uk



If you have any questions, comments or suggestions about Newborn Hearing Screening Wales, please email us through our website or phone us on one of the numbers below.

North Wales: 03000 848710
South West Wales: 01792 343364
South East Wales: 02921 843568

If you have any concerns, please write to:
The Director of Screening Services
4th Floor, Capital Quarter 2
Tyndall Street
Cardiff, CF10 4BZ

We welcome correspondence and phone calls in Welsh. We will respond to correspondence in Welsh without delay.

This information is available in large print and Braille.

