



**South Tees Hospitals**  
NHS Foundation Trust



# North East Regional Cochlear Implant Programme

Adult Assessment  
Information

Patient Information

Planned Care Centre  
Audiology Department

## Welcome to the North East Regional Cochlear Implant Programme

Now that you have been referred to the North East Regional Cochlear Implant Programme, you will need to have a range of assessments to see if you would benefit from a cochlear implant. The appointments will be at The James Cook University Hospital, Middlesbrough, or at other venues in the north east region.

### So what happens now?

You will be seen by a range of professionals which may include one of our Consultant ENT surgeons, a senior audiologist and an adult hearing rehabilitationist who specialise in working with cochlear implants. These appointments will not be in any particular order because our aim is to complete the process as quickly as possible. Each professional will be assessing different aspects to see whether you would be suitable for a cochlear implant.

After we have received your referral, you will be invited to attend your first appointment within six weeks. As patients are all individuals with different requirements, the timescale of the assessment process may vary. The cochlear implant assessment process requires commitment as you have to attend several appointments possibly at different locations within the north east region.

## Audiology appointments

An audiologist on our team will need to assess your hearing loss and the benefit you are getting from your hearing aids. It may be completed in one appointment or may take several appointments. It is expected that you wear your hearing aids consistently before and during the assessment process. It may be necessary to return to your local audiology department to have your hearing aids adjusted during the assessment and the cochlear implant audiologist will advise you about this. The audiologist will decide during this appointment whether the assessment for a cochlear implant will continue.

At this appointment you will also be given some questionnaires. If the assessment for a cochlear implant is to continue then you need to fill these in and bring them to the keyworker appointment.

## Keyworker appointments

Your keyworker will be an adult hearing rehabilitationist. They will talk to you about the assessment process, explain how a cochlear implant works and talk about expectations and limitations of a cochlear implant. They will also assess your lip-reading skills and general communication tactics.

## ENT Consultant clinic appointments

If the initial assessment suggests you may benefit from a cochlear implant you will meet one of the consultant surgeons on our team. This is to check general fitness for surgery, take a medical history, and to refer you for a CT scan. This is to obtain information which will help to decide whether an implant might be possible and successful.

### Medical

- Medical history
- Fitness for surgery
- CT scan
- Surgical procedure/ risks

### Audiology

- History of hearing loss
- Hearing tests
- Balance test (as needed)
- Hearing aid check

### Hearing therapy

1. To discuss:
  - expectations
  - outcomes
2. Offer support (access to work)

During the consultation you will be able to ask your own questions about the implant and the operation.

Some patients may be referred to other professionals outside the implant team for additional assessments such as psychology or cardiology. This is because these are needed as part of the implant assessment. You will be advised if this is necessary.

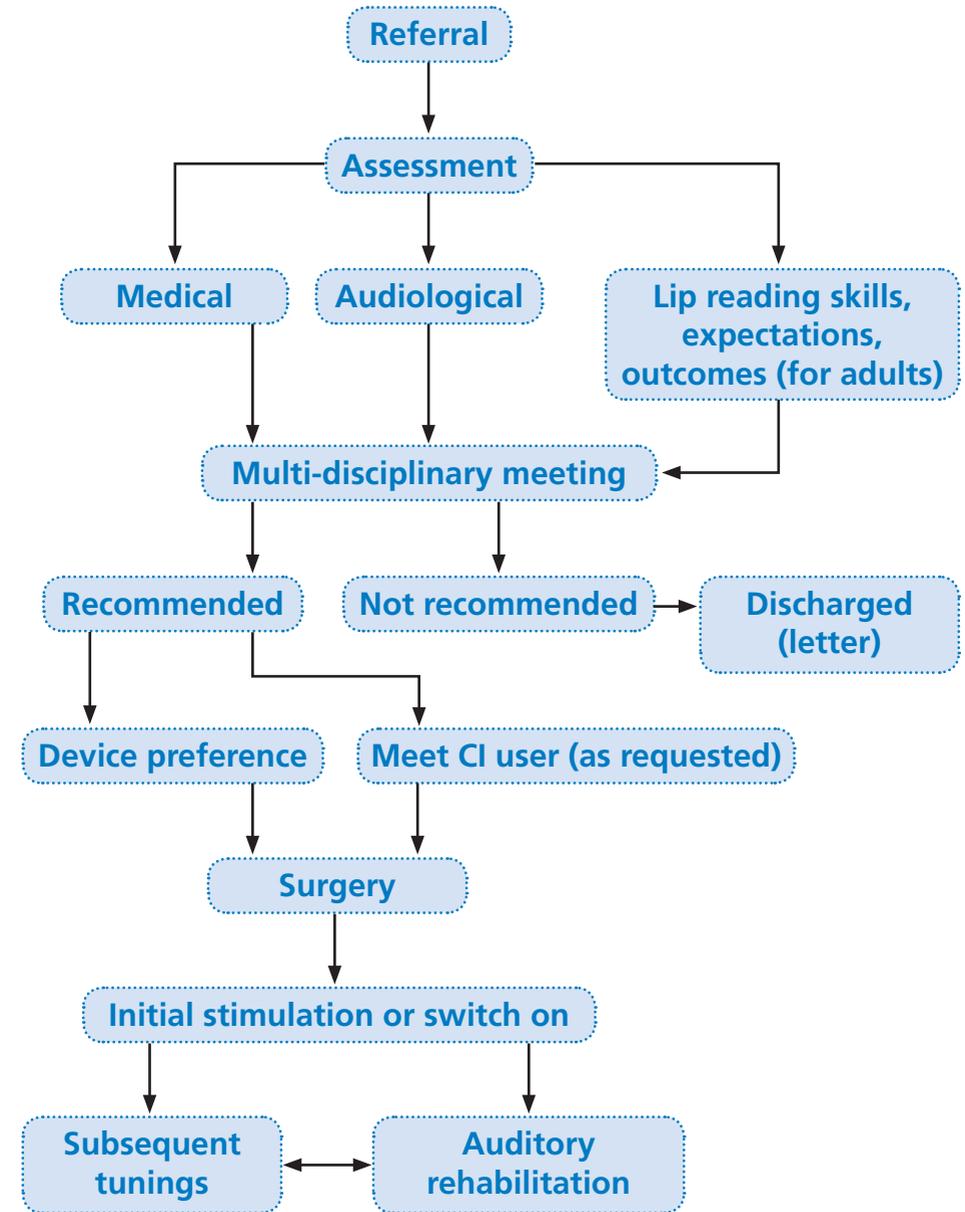
According to National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) guidelines, if an implant is offered, adults will be offered one implant only unless a patient also has visual difficulties when implants for both ears will be considered.

## Assessment complete - what next?

Once these assessments are completed the whole team meet together to discuss them and to decide whether or not you would benefit from a cochlear implant. If the decision is to offer an implant, you will be listed for surgery and you will be sent a date for surgery through the post and an appointment to see the surgeon to sign the consent form.

You will also receive an appointment before the surgery date. At this appointment you will be advised if there are any options you need to decide about such as the colour of the processor and any additional accessories. We can also arrange for you to meet a cochlear implant user if you think that would be helpful. As with all of the appointments, you will be able to ask any questions about the implant and the operation.

You are advised that the venues for appointments pre and post cochlear implant may change and we do use venues throughout the north east region.



## Comments, compliments, concerns or complaints

South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust is concerned about the quality of care you receive and strives to maintain high standards of health care.

However we do appreciate that there may be an occasion where you, or your family, feel dissatisfied with the standard of service you receive. Please do not hesitate to tell us about your concerns as this helps us to learn from your experience and to improve services for future patients.

## Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

This service aims to advise and support patients, families and carers and help sort out problems quickly on your behalf.

This service is available, and based, at The James Cook University Hospital but also covers the Friarage Hospital in Northallerton, our community hospitals and community health services. Please ask a member of staff for further information.

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