

Newborn hearing test

Information for parents



One + all | we care

If you would like this leaflet in large print, braille, audio version or in another language, please contact the General Office on 01872 252690



Who is this leaflet for?

Your baby has been referred for further testing following a newborn hearing screen. This leaflet aims to answer some questions you may have and provide you with information about your baby's appointment.

Where will the test take place?

In the Audiology department at Royal Cornwall Hospital, Truro. We are based in the Trelawny Wing, on the ground floor.

Please allow plenty of time for parking at the hospital as this is sometimes difficult. The hospital operates a 'pay on foot' system.

There is a Park and Ride facility at Threemilestone (on the A390 approach from Chiverton Cross) and on the East side of Truro (on the A39 from Carland Cross or A390 from St Austell). The park and ride buses stop regularly at the hospital site during normal working hours.

Who will carry out the testing?

We have a team of paediatric audiologists based at the hospital. Your baby will be seen by one of our team, who may be assisted by a colleague. The audiologists are used to dealing with very young babies.

What will happen at the appointment?

Several different tests may be carried out to establish the hearing levels of your baby. Even if your baby had clear responses on one ear at the time of the hearing screen, the audiologist will need to check the hearing levels on this ear as well. This is to check that your baby can hear the full range of sounds necessary for normal speech development.

Your baby will need to be as settled as possible during the tests (ideally sleeping) so please bring everything you need to help settle your baby. The audiologists understand that this may be difficult so plenty of time is allowed. Appointments usually last approximately 2 hours.

During your baby's appointment, the following tests are usually carried out.

Auditory brainstem response

This is similar to the 3rd stage of the newborn hearing screen your baby has already had. Sensors are placed on your baby's forehead and behind each ear. Soft inserts are placed in your baby's ear. Your baby's hearing responses are monitored and explained to you.

Tympanometry

This is a quick test to see whether your baby has any congestion, by placing a small tip in the outer ear.

What should I bring to the hospital?

- Feeds (if baby is bottle fed)
- Spare nappies
- Comforters (if used)
- Information about any hearing loss in your family.

Feeding / changing facilities

Baby changing facilities are available in the department. You are welcome to feed your baby during your visit. We can arrange breast feeding or bottle warming facilities on request.

When will I get the results?

The audiologist will explain the tests and their findings during the appointment. Often, a further appointment is made to be certain about the results.

Contact us

Audiology department 01872 254905

Newborn hearing screening team 01872 253998