



**Great Ormond Street
Hospital for Children**
NHS Foundation Trust

Cochlear Implant Programme Referral Criteria

Please find below the Great Ormond Street Cochlear Implant referral criteria. This document aims to assist referring sources in determining if a particular child is suitable for referral to GOSH CIP. Only referrals which are considered to fall within these criteria will be accepted.

1. Eligibility for NHS treatment:

Eligibility for NHS treatment has been confirmed prior to referral.

2. Audiological considerations

The child should have a confirmed severe to profound sensorineural component to their hearing loss. Severe to profound deafness is defined as hearing only sounds that are louder than 80 dB HL (pure-tone audiometric threshold equal to or greater than 80 dB HL) at 2 or more frequencies (500 Hz, 1,000 Hz, 2,000 Hz, 3,000 Hz and 4,000 Hz) bilaterally, without acoustic hearing aids.

The child must have been assessed objectively using Auditory Brainstem Response (ABR) or be able to perform reliable behavioural audiometry responses.

The child should be fitted with appropriate hearing aids for their hearing loss.

Hearing aids should be optimally set following the latest BSA Guidelines for the use of real ear measurements to verify the fitting of digital signal processing hearing aids.

Consistent hearing aid use should be established (at least 6-10 hours/day) with an adequate hearing aid trial (≥ 3 months) unless contraindicated.

Please ensure middle ear effusion is treated or in the process of being treated at the point of referral.

Exceptions to the criteria are made for Auditory Neuropathy Spectrum Disorder which is based upon functional performance. We will also make exceptions for considering children with progressive, asymmetrical, post meningitis and borderline hearing levels on a case by case basis.

3. Age

There is no minimum age of referral; prompt referrals are encouraged.

Progressive or sudden onset hearing loss patients should have established listening skills and rely on oral communication. Candidates must be under 16 years of age to attend Great Ormond Street Hospital.

If meningitis is the cause of hearing loss, referrals should be made immediately post diagnosis of hearing loss due to the likelihood of Cochlea ossification.

Great Ormond Street Hospital Cochlear Implant Programme Referral Checklist

Please ensure the following details are included in the referral:

- GP details and GP code
- Referring consultant
- PCT details
- Name of person with parental responsibility/consent for the child
- Patients address and contact details
- Name and contact details of local services involved including Teacher of the Deaf and Speech and Language Therapist
- Interpreting requirements
- Immigration status and proof of entitlement to NHS treatment
- Details of social care issues / social worker involvement if applicable
- Disabilities / special needs / statement of special educational needs if applicable
- Information regarding any previous Cochlear Implant assessments
- Any other circumstances we should be aware of

Please ensure you include the following documents with your referral:

- Copies of most recent audiograms: *If there is a progressive component or auditory neuropathy is suspected please include evidence of this.*
- Copies of any auditory evoked responses eg. Auditory Brainstem Response (ABR) / Cortical Auditory Evoked Potentials.
- Copy of otoacoustic emission results *(if performed)*
- Hearing aid information – make and model and a copy of the hearing aid settings / measurements.
- Aetiological investigations *(If already performed)*
- Scan results / copy *(If already performed)*

Referral enquiries please contact: cochlear@gosh.nhs.uk