

# Your baby's hearing assessment – what you need to know

## Audiology Department – Northern services

North Devon District Hospital

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## Other formats

If you need this information in another format such as audio CD, Braille, large print, high contrast, British Sign Language or translated into another language, please contact the PALS desk on 01271 314090 or at [rduh.pals-northern@nhs.net](mailto:rduh.pals-northern@nhs.net).

## What is an audiologist?

An audiologist is someone specially trained to test hearing. A paediatric audiologist specialises in testing the hearing of babies and children.

## What will happen during the appointment?

ABR (Auditory Brainstem Response) is a special type of hearing test that is specifically used with babies and young children. It is usually undertaken by two paediatric audiologists.

The test will work best if your baby is awake but sleepy on arrival at the Audiology Department. If your baby usually sleeps in the car it may help to bring someone with you who can keep them awake during the journey to the appointment.

Whilst your baby is still awake and in preparation for this test, small areas of your child's skin will be rubbed and we will gently place small adhesive sensors just behind each ear and on the forehead.

After the sensors have been applied you may want to feed your baby or take them for a little walk to encourage them to sleep – we allow plenty of time for this, so please do not feel under any pressure to hurry.

Once your baby is asleep, headphones are then used to introduce a high frequency sound. The response made by your child's brain when the sounds are heard is recorded and displayed on a series of graphs.

## Please bring with you

- A pushchair or car seat that your baby will be comfortable sleeping in
- Anything you need to help encourage your baby to sleep during the hearing test appointment
- If your baby has bottled milk, please bring a couple of feeds with you
- Your partner, other family member or friend

Please allow plenty of time for your appointment – it can take anything from one to four hours depending on how settled your baby is on the day.

## What will happen to my child's hearing test results?

If we can, we will try to give you the results of the test on the same day as your appointment. Sometimes it won't have been possible to get the results and we will have to arrange a further hearing test.

There are many factors that may influence or upset the results, such as prematurity, movement or electrical interference and it is important that we take these factors into consideration before the results are given.

Please don't be alarmed if another appointment is arranged to repeat the test, it is really important that we get accurate results so we can start working out how best to support your child.

If you have any questions about this test please do not hesitate to contact the department to discuss this with an audiologist.

## How to contact us?

If you have any queries about your appointment or problems as a result of the test/procedure or about your hearing aid(s), then you can contact the Audiology Department on **01271 322476**, between 8am and 6pm, Monday to Friday. Alternatively, you can email us at [ndht.audiology@nhs.net](mailto:ndht.audiology@nhs.net).

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## PALS

The Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) ensures that the NHS listens to patients, relatives, carers and friends, answers questions and resolves concerns as quickly as possible. If you have a query or concern call 01271 314090 or email [rduh.pals-northern@nhs.net](mailto:rduh.pals-northern@nhs.net). You can also visit the PALS and Information Centre in person at North Devon District Hospital, Barnstaple.

## Have your say

Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust aims to provide high quality services. However, please tell us when something could be improved. If you have a comment or compliment about a service or treatment, please raise your comments with a member of staff or the PALS team in the first instance.

Tell us about your experience of our services. Share your feedback on the Care Opinion website [www.careopinion.org.uk](http://www.careopinion.org.uk).

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