

## Referral to Hearing Aetiology clinic at Derbyshire Children's Hospital - Full Clinical Guideline

Reference no.:CG-PAEDS/4126/23

**Scope of clinic:** To offer investigations into the cause of sensori-neural hearing loss to children, young people and their families. This includes unilateral and bilateral SNHL and all hearing loss levels from mild to profound.

### Considerations when making referrals:

- a) Are they already seeing other paediatricians or specialists particularly at Derbyshire Children's Hospital? In such cases a separate referral to Hearing Aetiology clinic may not be appropriate and could add to the appointment burden for a child and their family.

Check Lorenzo for involvement of other professionals and if investigations already planned or child has known syndrome causing hearing loss.  
if unsure email [anita.hanson@nhs.net](mailto:anita.hanson@nhs.net) for advice.

Reminder: The investigation offered to parents/carers/young person have included the Hearing Loss gene panel since April 2021. Families seen prior to this date may not have been offered this but may have already had connexin 26/30 and mitochondrial testing for m1555 A>G testing for increased sensitivity to ear toxic effects of certain medications including certain antibiotics given via a drip.

- b) Have you discussed the reasons for making a referral for hearing loss aetiology investigations with the parents/carers/young person?
- c) Does the parents/carers/young person wish to pursue investigations into the cause of the child/young person's hearing loss?

#### Reminders/prompts for discussion

- 1) Hearing loss aetiology investigations are entirely optional
  - 2) Hearing loss aetiology investigations are not a requirement for accessing other health services
  - 3) Attendance at clinic or having hearing loss aetiology investigations is not a requirement for accessing DLA and additional funding for the child and family.
  - 4) Nor does attendance at hearing loss aetiology clinic mean a child, young person or their family are automatically entitled to additional benefits, monies
- d) Have you shared the Hearing Aetiology clinic leaflet with the parents/carers/young person -as appropriate?  
Reminder: Leaflet currently available in English and Slovak
  - e) Is the child/young person family from a disadvantaged or hard to reach community? In which case would it be more appropriate to see them in the Joint Paediatric Audiology clinic?

Reminder: Please indicate this on referral letter

**Please include the following information in any referral letter:**

- 1) Basic demographics- name, date of birth, address etc
- 2) Clear reason for referral:  
Reminder: Examples of when referrals would not be accepted would include:  
 No clear reason for referral  
 Referral for reasons other than hearing loss investigation such as other medical concerns, developmental concerns, behavioural concerns, ADHD, Autism  
 Request to explain result of investigations organised by another health professional including ENT, another Paediatrician.  
 Child or Young person has had hearing loss investigations already completed in the past and they do not wish to pursue any new investigations such as hearing loss gene panel
- 3) Type of hearing loss-unilateral/bilateral, mild, moderate, severe, profound etc
- 4) When hearing loss first detected and when first concerns about hearing loss were noted
- 5) Any known pre-existing diagnoses, and if possible the nature of these  
Reminder: This information may be found on Lorenzo
- 6) Any current known professionals involved and their details
- 7) Details of neonatal hearing screen program results:  
 This information is particularly relevant if a child is referred from age of 1 year + and if their NHSP screen did not detect any hearing loss.  
 Also if possible, include if the NHSP was an AOAE and/or an AABR

**Documentation Controls**

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<b>Version / Amendment History</b>	<b>Version</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Reason</b>
	1	June 2022	Dr Anita Hanson	Final draft following consultation
	1.1	Sept 2022	Head of Paediatric Audiology	Reformatted to fit UHDB guideline template
<b>Intended Recipients:</b> Paediatric Audiologists, ENT Consultants, Adult Audiologists who see any children.				

<b>Training and Dissemination:</b> Guideline developed by Paediatric Audiology, Email, Training in staff meetings.	
<b>Development of Guideline: Paediatric Audiology</b> <b>Job Title: Paediatric Audiology</b>	
<b>Consultation with: Paediatric Audiologists, Community Paediatrician</b>	
<b>Linked Documents:</b> Complex Hearing Assessment of Children, Amplification for Childhood Hearing Impairment, Management of Otitis Media with Effusion (Glue Ear) in Children, Hearing Assessment of Babies, Calibration of Audiometric Equipment, Assessment and Management of Tinnitus and Hyperacusis in Children	
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