



Cochlear Implant Program

Cochlear implants are small, surgically implanted electronic devices that can help provide Deaf or hard-of-hearing children with a sense of sound. They work by directly stimulating the hearing nerves with electrical signals.

What is the Cochlear Implant Program?

The Cochlear Implant (CI) Program is a team of providers who will work with you to determine if your child will benefit from a cochlear implant.

What services does the Cochlear Implant Program offer?

- Hearing evaluations
- Medical evaluations
- Vaccination recommendations
- Surgery
- Device activation
- Ongoing programming
- Auditory skill training and language evaluations

Would a cochlear implant help my child?

If your child has permanent hearing loss and is not able to hear speech even with a hearing aid, they may benefit from a cochlear implant. In order to determine if a cochlear implant is an option for your child we must first do a complete evaluation. This is a series of appointments with different members of the CI team. Some children may also need to see other specialists. These appointments are called the candidacy evaluation. The main purpose of these appointments is to determine:

- What your child can hear with hearing aids
- The structure of your child's inner ears
- Other medical conditions
- Your child's and family's expectations
- Ability to participate in therapy

Who will evaluate my child?

Audiologist - measures your child's hearing levels with and without hearing aids. They will also evaluate your child's understanding of speech.

Aural habilitation specialist - evaluates your child's listening skills and communication with the use of hearing aids. They may provide the therapy needed for a child with an implant.

Surgeon (otolaryngologist/ENT) - reviews X-rays and will talk with you about the surgery and medical issues related to cochlear implants.

Psychologist - explores your family's understanding of the benefits and limitations of a cochlear implant. If appropriate, your child will be interviewed individually.

To Learn More

- Childhood Communication Center
206-987-3853 (Voice)
206-987-2788 (TTY)
- www.seattlechildrens.org

Free Interpreter Services

- In the hospital, ask your child's nurse.
- From outside the hospital, call the toll-free Family Interpreting Line 1-866-583-1527. Tell the interpreter the name or extension you need.
- For Deaf and hard of hearing callers
206-987-2280 (TTY)

How do I begin the evaluation process?

If you would like to learn more about a cochlear implant for your child, contact the CI Program Coordinator at 206-987-3853. You will receive a packet of information including a questionnaire. After we receive the completed questionnaire, your appointments will be scheduled.

What if our child already has a cochlear implant?

Members of our team provide services for children who already have cochlear implants. If your child received a cochlear implant at another center and you would like to transfer care to Seattle Children's Hospital, we will review your child's records to determine which members of our team should work with your child.