

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 audiologists, aural habilitation specialists, psychologists and surgeons 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, including speech understanding
 - Medical evaluations
 - Surgery
 - Device activation
 - Ongoing implant programming
 - Auditory skill training and language evaluations
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Would a cochlear implant help my child?

If your child has permanent hearing loss and is not able to hear or understand speech adequately with a hearing aid, they may benefit from a cochlear implant. 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 and without 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
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To Learn More

- Childhood Communication Center
206-987-3853 (Voice)
- CCCscheduling@seattlechildrens.org
- Ask your child's healthcare provider
- seattlechildrens.org

Free Interpreter Services

- In the hospital, ask your 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.

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. They also help activate and program implants.

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

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

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

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, option 1. You will receive a packet of information that includes a questionnaire and health information release forms.

After we receive the completed paperwork and required medical records, we will contact you to schedule the appointments needed for an implant.

What if our child already has a cochlear implant?

Our team provides services to children who already have cochlear implants up to age 21.

If your child received a cochlear implant at another center and you would like to transfer care to Seattle Children's, contact the CI Program Coordinator at 206-987-3853, option 1.

You will receive a packet of information with paperwork to fill out. After we receive the paperwork and required medical records, including an electronic mapping file from your previous audiologist, we will contact you to schedule appointments.