

Rehabilitation support – Hearing Implant Centre

This leaflet explains about the rehabilitation (rehab) team at the Hearing Implant Centre: Implant Centre teachers of the deaf; Implant Centre speech and language therapists; and Implant Centre psychologists. If you have any further questions or concerns, please speak to the Hearing Implant reception Centre.

Implant Centre teacher of the deaf (ICToD)

Who are they?

There are a team of ICToDs, and each one covers a geographical area. You will be allocated an ICToD based on where you live. You will get their contact details either at your first appointment or when the ICToD visits you at home as part of the hearing implant assessment.

What is their role?

The ICToD does not replace your local teacher of the deaf. They will work alongside local professionals to provide information, advice and support about equipment, educational issues and rehabilitation. Support is tailored to meet the family's needs.

Your local teacher of the deaf will still be your main point of contact for ongoing general support. The ICToD specifically gives advice about implant assessment and rehabilitation.

How often will I see them?

Your ICToD will visit your child:

- during the assessment process – this may be at home, in their school, or both
- before the cochlear implant is activated
- after activation
- when your child begins a new educational phase

There is a schedule of visits and assessments used to track progress to enable your child to get maximum benefit from their implant. Your ICToD will visit more often during the first year.

Your ICToD will continue to monitor progress, liaise with local professionals and give advice and support until your child leaves education or transfers to the Adult service.

Implant Centre speech and language therapist (ICSLT)

Who are they?

There are a team of ICSLTs who all specialise in deafness. You will be allocated one who will remain with you throughout the assessment and early post-op phase. The ICSLTs are mainly based at the hospital for appointments, but occasionally travel out to homes and schools.

What is their role?

The ICSLT does not replace your local speech and language therapist (SLT). Your local SLT remains your contact who provides rehabilitation. Not all children who come to see us have been allocated a local SLT. If this is the case, we will request a local referral for SLT support.

The ICSLTs' role is to assess speech perception abilities as well as communication, language and speech development, both pre- and post-implant. They will do this in conjunction with the local SLT. The ICSLT will offer guidance and advice to your family and local professionals, and they may offer some targeted rehabilitation.

How often will I see them?

You will meet your ICSLT at the initial appointment in the Hearing Implant Centre and they will often be involved in the majority of your clinic appointments both pre- and post-implant, up to five years post-implant. At this point, continued input is offered as required. The ICSLTs will also offer a full language assessment when your child reaches 13 years old, to monitor longer term progress and offer advice.

Implant Centre psychologist (ICPSYC)

Who are they?

Clinical psychologists work in a variety of different settings including hospitals, schools and clinics. Psychologists are trained to help people who might be having difficulties with how they are thinking and feeling. They often specialise in a particular area.

What is their role?

The psychologist you may see with your child specialises in helping children and young people under 18 years old who need to make decisions about their health, are thinking about surgical procedures, or who are having emotional or behavioural difficulties. The psychologist can assess a child's developmental or cognitive (thinking) abilities and use different approaches to help with decision-making or to help families make changes that will improve their quality of life. The psychologist works as part of the multidisciplinary team, which includes speech and language therapists, audiologists, surgeons and teachers of the deaf.

Sometimes, when a person hears the word psychologist they think they will be judged, evaluated or even have their mind read. It is very important for you to know that a psychologist is not there to judge you, your child or your parenting skills. They are there to help you and your family achieve the best outcome from a cochlear implant, and to ensure the emotional well-being of you and your child. A psychologist is available throughout the cochlear implant process to help with any concerns and issues you or your child may have, by talking them through with you.

After implantation some families benefit from input from the psychologist when your child is learning to understand the new sounds (the rehabilitation phase). This includes helping with worries, concerns or problems with adjusting to the implant. They will also help with other areas you may have concerns about, for example, behavioural difficulties or exploring your child's identity with you, as they grow.

How often will I see them?

The psychologist will be available to see you throughout the assessment process and after the cochlear implant has been fitted. It is typical for another member of the Hearing Implant Team to talk with you about this and your concerns, to help the psychologist have a better understanding of the difficulties before meeting with you. You may just see the psychologist once, or over a number of sessions, depending on you and your child's needs.

Useful sources of information

National Deaf Children's Society – www.ndcs.org.uk

Contact us

Hearing Implant Centre Reception **t:** 020 7188 6245, **e:** gst-tr.hearingimplants@nhs.net

Repairs and Spare **t:** 020 7188 8969, **t:** 07917 052375, **e:** auditoryimplants@gstt.nhs.uk

For more information leaflets on conditions, procedures, treatments and services offered at our hospitals, please visit www.guysandstthomas.nhs.uk/leaflets

Pharmacy Medicines Helpline

If you have any questions or concerns about your medicines, please speak to the staff caring for you or call our helpline.

t: 020 7188 8748 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday

Your comments and concerns

For advice, support or to raise a concern, contact our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS). To make a complaint, contact the complaints department.

t: 020 7188 8801 (PALS) **e:** pals@gstt.nhs.uk

t: 020 7188 3514 (complaints) **e:** complaints2@gstt.nhs.uk

Language Support Services

If you need an interpreter or information about your care in a different language or format, please get in touch:

t: 020 7188 8815 **e:** languagesupport@gstt.nhs.uk

NHS 111

Offers medical help and advice from fully trained advisers supported by experienced nurses and paramedics. Available over the phone 24 hours a day.

t: 111

NHS Choices

Provides online information and guidance on all aspects of health and healthcare, to help you make choices about your health.

w: www.nhs.uk

Get involved and have your say: become a member of the Trust

Members of Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust contribute to the organisation on a voluntary basis. We count on them for feedback, local knowledge and support. Membership is free and it is up to you how much you get involved. To find out more, and to become a member:

t: 0800 731 0319 **e:** members@gstt.nhs.uk **w:** www.guysandstthomas.nhs.uk/membership

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A list of sources is available on request