

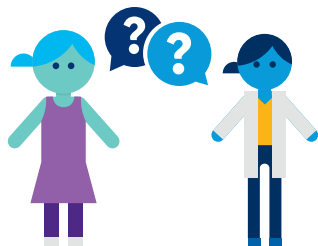
# Cochlear Implant Roadmap

## Phase one: Initial consultation and evaluations



### Start here

You have been referred to us by your child's care team for cochlear implants. Together we'll discuss your child's diagnosis and determine best next steps for your child and family.



First, you'll meet with an audiologist to introduce cochlear implants and answer any questions you may have. We'll conduct hearing tests to confirm your child's diagnosis and you'll meet with the rest of the team to learn more about the process and expected outcomes. Our work around cochlear implants is a team effort, and we are dedicated to understanding your child's needs and overall health holistically.

### Some tests your child may undergo:

- ENT consultation
- Speech-language evaluation
- MRI
- CT
- Social work consultation
- Meeting with family resource and/or teacher of the deaf/hard of hearing
- Ultrasound
- Eye exam
- Neurology exam
- Developmental exam
- Vestibular testing



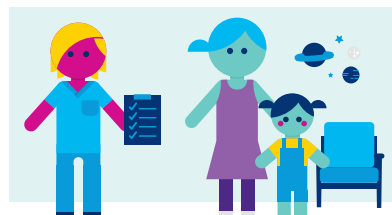
Then, our cochlear implant team will review your child's case to make recommendations and create a plan for surgery if appropriate.

Throughout your journey, you'll have access to a team of multidisciplinary specialists including audiologists, otolaryngologists, speech language specialists, teachers of the deaf/hard of hearing, social workers, child life specialists, a family resource coordinator and more.

## Phase two: Preparing for surgery



Our audiologists will walk through your hearing technology options and help to pick out any external equipment that will best suit your child's needs.



Before surgery, our team will also help prepare families to properly use equipment and share more about the surgery process, outcomes and expectations, and follow-up

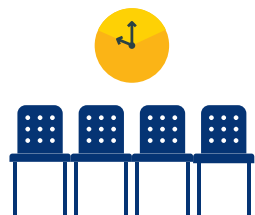


Once you've selected your hearing device, we'll schedule your surgery. At this time, we'll confirm your child is up to date on required vaccinations and help schedule any appointments if boosters or additional vaccinations are required.



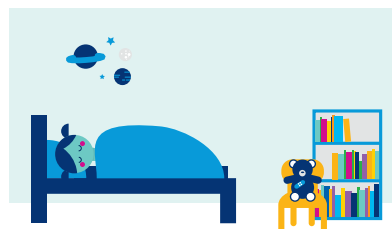
Our child life specialists are here to offer additional support and to help reduce any anxiety a child may feel in preparing for implantation.

## Phase three: Surgery

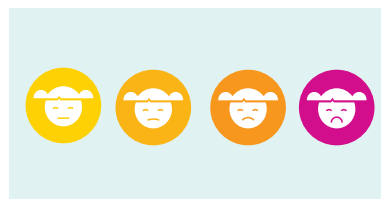


Surgery lengths vary depending on the complexity of your case but be prepared for a long day. Our surgeons take extra care to ensure that their work is done meticulously to achieve the best outcomes for your child.

## Phase four: After surgery



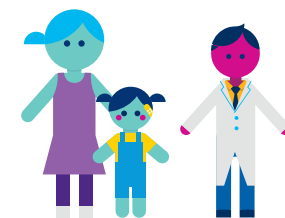
Depending on your child's case, they may be able to go home the same day as their surgery or might stay with us for the night.



Most kids have minimal pain after surgery, and many bounce back quickly, but some may require a little extra care and time. We will work with you and your child to determine what they need.



Your child will have a big cup over their ear with bandages to protect the incision.



Your child will follow up with an ENT specialist about 10 days after surgery to check in on how things are healing.

## Phase five: Activation



If things are healing well, the activation appointment takes place two-three weeks after the surgery.



During your child's two-hour activation appointment, we'll turn on the sound for your child's implants and begin easing into hearing. We'll provide details on everything you'll need to know, including programs to help increase hearing levels over time. Happy hearing birthday!



We'll follow up in another month to go through all the equipment accessories and check in on your child's window of sound.



## Phase six: Ongoing hearing support and maintenance



After surgery and implant activation, we'll continue working with you to ensure your child's level of hearing and speech is progressing.

- You'll visit our cochlear implant audiologists in our Audiology Clinic four-six times a year for the first year, and one-two times a year after that.
- Your child will see a deaf/hard of hearing therapist regularly (weekly, biweekly or monthly) beginning shortly after activation to help them make sense of sounds with their new technology.
- Vestibular testing is recommended around your child's three-month follow-up appointment with the audiologist. This is a test of your child's balance organs, which live right next to the cochlea (the implant location).



Our team will also work closely with your child's school to make sure your child's implants are tech ready and that your child continues to meet their developmental milestones.



Your child's external device will be replaced every three-seven years, while the internal device may need to be replaced once or twice in a lifetime.



Our support is long-lasting and ongoing. We'll continue to offer school support, social support, emotional support and more as needed.



If your child is implanted prior to age 3, we recommend a vestibular and physical therapy evaluation at 3 years of age (even if they had completed testing prior). If your child is implanted after age 3, we recommend their evaluation at their 3-month follow up.

**We have a team who offers both in-person and telehealth visits for speech and listening therapies to increase access for families across the region.**

## Phase seven: Enjoying life with a cochlear implant

