

Service information guide

Hearing Screening and Congenital Cytomegalovirus (cCMV)

Information for families



Why is my baby being tested for cCMV?

A clear response on their hearing screen wasn't obtained and so your baby has been referred for a more detailed hearing test. The test may show no concerns with your baby's hearing, or it could show that they have a hearing loss. If your baby does have a hearing loss, we will be able to find out if this is temporary or permanent.

One possible cause for a permanent hearing loss is cCMV. CMV is a common virus with symptoms like a cold in adults. However, cCMV can sometimes have more significant symptoms if a baby is exposed before they're born. Some babies with cCMV have no signs of the infection.

It is best to diagnose cCMV early as research has shown that anti-viral medicines can help some babies. Giving the medication when they are only a few weeks old can reduce the

What does the cCMV test involve?

A small swab, similar to a cotton bud, will be placed in your baby's mouth against their cheek to collect saliva. This will then be sent to a specialist laboratory to test for the virus.

How do I find out the results?

A Paediatric Audiologist from the Children's Community Audiology Service will contact you by telephone. We expect the results to take approximately 5 days before they're available. If you have any questions or want to talk to someone about this, you can contact the Children's Community Audiology Service:

Telephone: 0300 247 0200

Email: bswchildrens.enquiries@hcrkgcaregroup.com

What if the results are negative?

We will contact you by telephone with the negative result. You'll also receive a letter confirming the result. If the hearing test result shows your baby to have satisfactory hearing, we won't arrange any further routine review appointments. If the hearing test result shows your baby has a hearing loss (temporary or permanent), we will arrange further appointments to check your baby's hearing as they get older.

What if the results are positive?

We will contact you by telephone with the positive result. The Paediatric Audiologist will also contact the Consultant Paediatrician at the Royal United Hospital Bath NHS Foundation Trust, and they will be in touch with you to arrange an appointment and discuss next steps, including whether further investigations and treatment is required. Whether your baby has satisfactory hearing or a hearing loss we will continue to regularly check their hearing.

Get in touch

Children's Community Audiology Service

Clara Cross Centre
St Martin's Hospital
Bath
BA2 5RP

t: 0300 247 0200

e: bswchildrens.enquiries@hcrhcaregroup.com

w: <https://bswcommunityservices.co.uk/services/audiology/>

Further information

For more information about cCMV please visit:

- <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/cytomegalovirus-cmv/>
- <https://cmvaction.org.uk/what-is-cmv/>

