



**Portsmouth Hospitals
University**
NHS Trust

Further audiological testing Information for patients

Audiology Department

Working together To drive excellence in care for
our patients and communities

Specialist Support

This leaflet can be made available in another language, large print or another format. Please speak to a member of staff who can advise you.





You have been referred for further audiological tests. You will be seen by a specialist audiologist and the appointment will last approximately 40 minutes. You are welcome to bring a friend or relative with you. Please bring your reading glasses and hearing aids, if you require them.

Communication needs

If you have any special communication needs or require an interpreter please contact the department as soon as possible on 023 9228 6289.

Students

Please note that, as this is a teaching hospital, a student may carry out some or all of your appointment with input from a qualified audiologist. If you have any objections to this, please contact us as soon as possible.

What should I expect at the appointment?

The audiologist will review the information that led to the referral and will ask you some questions about your hearing and any other ear related symptoms. They may also ask you questions about your general health. From this information they will select the tests that are required.

Tests

We will only proceed with your consent. The selected tests will be described to you before we start and may include the following:-

Ear Examination

We will look at the outside of your ears and will use an otoscope, a specialist torch, to look in your ear canal.

Hearing Test

Headphones, a bone conductor (a special headband with a vibrating pad which sits on the bone behind the ear) or special ear plugs will be used to play a variety of sounds. You will be asked to press a button each time you hear a noise and we will record the quietest levels that you can hear.





Tympanometry and Acoustic Reflexes

A soft tip will be placed into the entrance of each ear canal, either one at a time or both ears together. You will feel a slight pressure in the ear canal for a few seconds. This will tell the audiologist how well your ear drum is moving. You may then hear a series of beeps which will gradually increase in level. If you experience any discomfort, please let the audiologist know and they can stop testing. These results will tell the audiologist about the type of hearing loss you may have.

Otoacoustic emissions (OAEs)

A soft tip will be placed into each ear in turn. You will hear a series of clicking noises. This will tell the audiologist about the function of the inner ear.

Auditory Brainstem Response (ABR)

Sticky pads will be placed behind your ears and on your forehead and you will be played a series of noises through headphones or special ear plugs. You will need to remain still during the test which will last about 20 minutes.

Speech Testing

You will be played a series of words through headphones or a speaker and asked to repeat what you hear. In some of these tests there will be other noise as well as the speech. We may play the speech sounds with the hearing aids in or out of your ears.

What happens next?

The audiologist will explain the results of the tests to you and discuss the options for your management. We will write to your GP and/or referring clinician to inform them we have tests results and the outcome of this appointment. If you require any further appointments in the Audiology department, arrangements will be made for this, you may be put on a waiting list.





Consent - What does this mean?

Before any doctor, nurse or therapist examines or treats you they **must** have your **consent** or permission.

Consent ranges from allowing a doctor to take your blood pressure (rolling up your sleeve and presenting your arm is implied consent) to signing a form saying you agree to the treatment or operation.

It is important **before** giving permission that you understand what you are agreeing to. **If you do not understand – ask.** More detailed information is available on request.

How to comment on your treatment

We aim to provide the best possible service and if you have a question or a concern about your treatment then the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) are always happy to try to help you get answers you need. You can contact PALS on **0800 917 6039** or E-mail:

PHT.pals@porthosp.nhs.uk who will contact the department concerned on your behalf.

Data Protection Legislation – Privacy Notice

Further information on how we look after your personal information can be found on the Trust Information Governance webpage at www.porthosp.nhs.uk - or alternatively, please speak to a member of staff.

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www.porthosp.nhs.uk

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