



University Hospitals Birmingham
NHS Foundation Trust



Cochlear implant switch-on

Building healthier lives

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You have been sent a series of appointments for the switch-on (initial activation) of your cochlear implant. You will be seen by a hearing implant specialist(s) and the appointments will last between 1–2 hours each. You are encouraged to bring a friend or relative to your appointment. If you have already received your switch-on kit prior to these appointments, please ensure you bring your switch-on kit, including the sound processor and remote control device (if used) with you. Please charge the batteries before your cochlear implant switch on. If you have not received your switch-on kit, it will be ready for you at the department.

Cochlear implants for severe to profoundly deaf people

You will have been given a DVD during your assessment which will show you all about cochlear implants. The DVD is subtitled and will explain about all aspects of the assessment, surgery, risks and benefits of cochlear implants. You can also access the DVD on line at:

www.uhb.nhs.uk/services/audiology/cochlear-implants/i-am-interested-in-an-implant/

The instruction manuals for your cochlear implant system are included in the switch-on kit.

What to expect at your switch-on appointments

Your switch-on appointments take place over one week and will include the following:

1. The implant audiologist will check your scar and your ear and may show you your post-operative X-ray if available. Your recovery from the operation will be discussed with you
2. Via a computer connection, the internal device function will be checked through the external sound processor
3. Your implant program levels will be measured. You will be asked to listen for very quiet sounds across several channels. These sounds will be electronic in origin and may sound unnatural at first. Next you will be asked to listen to sounds at a comfortably loud level. Finally, all channels will be activated and you will be able to hear through your implant for the first time.

Remember, at first the sounds will be very electronic, robotic and unnatural. You may not understand any sounds you hear.

Your ability to understand what the sounds mean will improve over time.

The sounds will become more normal and natural over time

4. The implant audiologist will explain the basic functions and care of your cochlear implant system
5. You may also see a Rehabilitation Specialist for more detailed device counselling and also some listening exercises. You will be given listening work to do at home

What happens next?

Initial activation or switch-on is the first step in a lifetime of listening with a cochlear implant. Over the initial weeks, the sound quality will improve as the implant audiologist adjusts your program. In addition, you will gradually understand what the sounds mean as your hearing pathway adapts to the new electrical hearing.

Your review appointments may be scheduled at the following intervals, depending on your personal needs:

- 1 week review
- 3 month review
- 12 month review

Once implant use is established, you may be offered the opportunity to join a remote care programme so you can manage your implant yourself at home via an App. Remote care programmes allow you to connect with the clinic from the comfort of your own home.

You are welcome to contact us to schedule interim appointments if required but please note we do not offer a walk-in repair service. If you arrive without an appointment we will not be able to see you.

Communication needs

If you require an interpreter at your appointment please telephone **0121 371 4756** or email: **interpreting.service@uhb.nhs.uk**

Students

Please note that as this is a teaching hospital, a student may observe this appointment. If you do not want a student to be present, please contact us as soon as possible. Our contact details are on the form.

Patient transport

If you are eligible for patient transport, please contact West Midlands Ambulance non-emergency Patient Transport Service on **0800 035 6511**.

How did we do? 😊 😐 😞

If you have recently used our services we'd love to hear about your experience. Please scan the QR code or follow the link to share your feedback to help us improve our services. **Thank you.**

www.uhb.nhs.uk/fft



Accessibility

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