

Transitioning from children's to adult audiology services



Information for patients

Regional Department of Neurotology



This leaflet is for all teenagers who have been transferred from the Children's Hearing Services department to the Adult Scientific Audiology Service, within the Regional Department of Neurotology at the Royal Hallamshire Hospital.

What is the Scientific Audiology Service?

The services we provide include:

- Hearing assessments
- A range of hearing aid technology
- Advice and demonstration of communication equipment
- Assessment of hearing related issues
- Onward referrals to other specialist services such as Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT), Balance assessment, Cochlear Implant, Hearing Therapy and Speech & Language Therapy.

What is the Transition Clinic?

You will usually be seen at the Transition Clinic when you first attend the adult audiology service.

The adult audiology service works differently from the children's service. The aim of the Transition Clinic is to prepare you for these differences and make sure you have the support you need as you move to sixth form and on to university or employment.

How does the change affect me?

You will be responsible for deciding your own treatment. It will become your responsibility to let us know when you need assistance.

You should ensure that you arrange regular check-ups for your ears and hearing aid(s).

Who will I see?

You will be seen by an audiological scientist (a type of audiologist) who is experienced in seeing young adults. You may also see other professionals such as doctors, hearing therapists or communication therapists.

When will I be seen?

You will be offered an appointment within six months of your last appointment at the Children's Hospital. In the meantime, if you have any problems with your hearing or hearing aids, please contact the Children's Hearing Services department.

Will the department know about my hearing loss and hearing aids when I arrive?

Yes. Information about your hearing and/or hearing aid(s) is forwarded from the Children's Hospital.

Can I bring someone with me?

Yes. You are welcome to come alone or you can bring someone with you.

What happens at my first appointment?

Your appointment may last up to 90 minutes. Firstly, the audiologist will ask you some questions to gain a detailed understanding of your hearing needs. This will cover your hearing difficulties and how they impact upon your lifestyle, hearing aids (if you have any) and any other hearing related issues you may have.

The audiologist will examine your ears and may carry out one or more hearing tests. Results will be discussed with you and the audiologist will advise you as to the next step.

This may include:

- Prescribing new hearing aids
- Adjustments to current hearing aids
- Advice regarding other listening devices
- Referral (where appropriate) to another of our specialist services to address issues such as tinnitus, ear conditions, balance/dizziness problems, and adjusting to living with hearing loss and/or hearing aids.

After your initial appointment(s) in the Transition Clinic, we will discuss with you how often you need an appointment.

Further appointments

Appointments are available most weekdays from 8.30am to 4.00pm.

There are two types of appointment which need to be booked in advance:

- **Scientist appointment** (up to 90 minutes): if you require a hearing test or new hearing aids.
- **Scientist repair appointment** (up to 30 minutes): if you require a hearing aid repair or adjustments, or new ear moulds.

You must book an appointment to see an audiologist. Unfortunately we cannot see you if you turn up without an appointment.

Please let us know as soon as possible if you require an interpreter for your appointment. We can arrange foreign language and British Sign Language (BSL) interpreters.

Please let us know if you would like appointments in school holidays or at a particular time of day to fit around your commitments. We will try our best to find a suitable time for you.

We also offer a postal/drop-off repair service. You can either post your hearing aids to us (at the address on page 7) or drop them off at our reception (open Monday to Friday, 9.00am - 4.30pm).

Please include a note with your name, address, contact phone number, email and details of the problem you are experiencing. We will contact you to arrange collection of the repaired hearing aid when it is ready.

We can also post items such as earmould tubing and hearing aid batteries to you upon request.

I cannot make my appointment, what should I do?

Please contact us as soon as possible to cancel and rearrange your appointment. (See page 7 for contact details).

How will I get my batteries?

Come to the Hearing Services reception desk Monday to Friday between 9.00am and 4.30pm. No appointment is necessary.

At your first appointment you will be given a battery issuing card and it is important you bring this with you. We also offer a postal battery service. Alternatively, there are several GP surgeries and libraries in the Sheffield area that also supply NHS hearing aid batteries.

Do I have to pay for anything?

No. All appointments, hearing aids, spares and batteries remain free of charge on the NHS.

However, there may be certain extra devices that help you hear which we cannot supply. You may wish to buy these yourself from other suppliers (for example, cables to help you hear music through your mp3 player or through your television).

Who can I speak to for advice on extra listening equipment?

You can speak to your audiologist about listening equipment.

They may book you an appointment with the communication therapist within the hospital, to discuss and trial available equipment and recommend possible suppliers. However, we cannot supply these additional devices.

What happens regarding the care of my hearing aid if I go away to college or university?

There are two options. You can temporarily transfer to the local audiology department where you are studying.

Alternatively, you can continue your care in Sheffield. This may mean coming back for appointments or posting in your hearing aids for repair.

Is there help/support available while I am studying?

It will depend on the school, college or university that you attend. It may be useful to contact the college or university disability team.

On request, we can write a letter to advise the team about your hearing difficulties. We will discuss useful extra equipment with you.

Contact details

The audiologist who looks after the transition clinic is Adam Hart.

To book an appointment, or for any queries, please get in touch with the Audiology Contact Centre using the contact details below:

- **0114 226 1314** (Telephone)
- **0791 772 1604** (Text)
- **18001 114 226 1314** (Typetalk)
- **STH.ContactRDN@nhs.net** (Email)
- Regional Department of Neurotology (signposted Hearing Services / Medical Audiology)
B Floor, Outpatients Department
Royal Hallamshire Hospital
Glossop Road
Sheffield, S10 2JF

How to find us

The entrance to the department is on 'B road', entrance number 7

The map shows the layout of the Royal Hallamshire Hospital. The main hospital building is at the top, with 'C ROAD' above it. Below it is 'B ROAD', and below that is 'A ROAD'. 'GLOSSOP ROAD' runs along the bottom and right sides, and 'CLARKEHOUSE ROAD' runs along the bottom left. 'BECH HILL ROAD' is on the far left. The 'OUTPATIENTS BUILDING' is located between B Road and A Road. A 'Multi-Storey Car Park' is situated at the bottom right. A legend at the bottom identifies various symbols: a blue 'P' for pay & display parking, a blue wheelchair icon for disabled parking, a yellow 'H1' for hospital shuttle bus, a bus icon for bus stop, a bicycle icon for bicycle parking, a person with a car icon for drop-off zone, and a cash machine icon for cash machine. Three inset photos on the left show: 1. 'Main Hospital Entrance B road' (entrance 9), 2. 'Audiology Hearing Services B road' (entrance 7), and 3. 'Outpatients Entrance A road' (entrance 2). Blue arrows on the map point from these photos to their respective entrances.

Main Hospital Entrance
B road

Audiology Hearing Services
B road

Outpatients Entrance
A road

Legend:

- P Pay & display parking
- Disabled parking
- H1 Hospital shuttle bus
- Bus stop
- Bicycle parking
- Drop-off zone
- Cash machine



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