

Congenital CMV and Hearing Loss

Parent Information

Community Children's Audiology



The Patient Information Leaflets page on the Trust website is available on the link:
<https://www.wwl.nhs.uk/patient-information-leaflets> or scan the QR code.

Author ID: LF
Leaflet Ref: CM 346
Version: 1
Leaflet title: Congenital CMV and Hearing Loss
Date Produced: March 2025
Expiry Date: March 2027

Our Values**People at
the Heart****Listen and
Involve****Kind and
Respectful****One
Team**

Congenital CMV and Hearing Loss

Cytomegalovirus, or CMV, is a common virus that can infect people of all ages. Most healthy children and adults infected with CMV don't feel ill and don't know that they have been infected; others may have mild flu-like symptoms.

However, when CMV infection occurs during a woman's pregnancy, the developing baby can become infected. CMV infection before birth is known as 'Congenital CMV'. When this happens, the virus can potentially damage the inner ears. If the inner ears become damaged, the baby may be born with a hearing loss or may develop a hearing loss after birth or during early childhood.

Congenital CMV is one cause of hearing loss. Congenital CMV may be treatable if it is diagnosed early, and treatment may prevent further progression of hearing loss. Therefore, it is important for us to test for CMV if your baby is suspected of having a hearing loss. Finding out early means you and your baby will get the right advice and support from the very beginning.

Testing for CMV

Congenital CMV testing is simple and painless; it is completed by using a saliva sample. We do this by taking a swab of the inside of your baby's cheek. Tests can confirm congenital CMV infection in a baby if they are done before the baby is three weeks of age.

A hearing loss can have an impact on your child's speech, communication skills and on your child's education. Early detection of hearing loss and of congenital CMV means that your child's needs can be addressed early. This can reduce the impact that the hearing loss may have on your child.

What if my baby is found to have congenital CMV?

Audiology can refer your baby to the specialist centre in Manchester to discuss the results with you. Antiviral medication can be given that may prevent the hearing loss from getting worse.

Further contact details:

Community Children's Audiology
Platt Bridge Health Centre
Rivington Avenue
Platt Bridge
Wigan
WN2 5NG

Comments, Compliments or Complaints

The Patient Relations/Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) Department provides confidential on the spot advice, information and support to patients, relatives, friends, and carers.

Contact Us

Tel: 01942 822376 (Monday to Friday 9am until 4pm)

The Patient Relations/PALS Manager
Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Royal Albert Edward Infirmary
Wigan Lane
Wigan
WN1 2NN

Ask 3 Questions

Become more involved in decisions about your healthcare. You may be asked to make choices about your treatment. To begin with, try to make sure you get the answers to three key questions:

1. What are my options?
2. What are the positives and negatives of each option for me?
3. How do I get support to help me make a decision that is right for me?



How We Use Your Information

For details on how we collect, use, and store the information we hold about you, please see patient information leaflet, Ref. **Corp 006** How we use your information, this can be found on the Patient Information Leaflets page on the Trust website, see details on the front cover.

This leaflet is also available in audio, large print, Braille, and other languages upon request. For more information, please ask in the department/ward.

© Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.
All rights reserved. Not to be reproduced in whole or in part without the permission of the copyright owner.

Call 111 first when it's less urgent than 999.



EMPLOYER RECOGNITION SCHEME

GOLD AWARD 2021

Proudly serving those who serve.

Phone: 0808 802 1212
Text: 81212
www.veteransgateway.org.uk

