

PAEDIATRIC COCHLEAR IMPLANT PROGRAMME

PARENTS' AGREEMENT

You have decided to accept the offer of cochlear implants for your child. This decision involves considerable commitment. Your support is **essential** so that your child benefits from the implants.

Here are some important things for you to think about.

1. **Your child needs to wear a sound processor for all his/her waking hours.** You need to achieve this routine as soon as possible after your child's first programming appointment. Time and effort will be needed from you but this is essential if your child is going to make progress in listening. Persistent poor use of processors could lead to the involvement of the hospital safeguarding team, in line with YAIS and Trust policies.
2. **Your child relies on you to keep their sound processor in good working order.** You will be supplied with spares and shown how to troubleshoot the processor. You must contact the YAIS promptly if there are problems and to ask for replacement parts.
3. **Your child needs to hear people speaking** in order to learn to listen, understand and develop speech themselves. You need to include speech when communicating with your child. However, a cochlear implant is a listening device and may not improve any recognised speech and language disorders or processing difficulties.
4. After receiving a cochlear implant there will be regular programming and Speech & Language Therapy appointments at YAIS. **It is very important that you attend these appointments.** If you have difficulty in attending, you must let us know as soon as possible so that we can allocate that time to another patient. Persistent poor attendance could lead to the involvement of the hospital safeguarding team, in line with YAIS and Trust policies.
5. **The implant team needs to work with you and share information with your local Teacher of the Deaf, your local Speech & Language Therapist and anyone else who works with your child.** We need to keep in good contact with you. The YAIS Teacher of the Deaf will visit you at home to work with you and your local Teacher of the Deaf to develop your child's listening skills through everyday activities. Information about your child will be shared with your local professionals. It is important to keep these appointments and not keeping these appointments could lead to the involvement of the hospital safeguarding team, in line with YAIS and Trust policies.
6. You will need to read the information provided about the risks to the implant and sound processor from physical activities such as contact sports (rugby / kick boxing) or amusement rides. **You will need to think about how to take care of your child to minimise these risks. Please refer to the individual cochlear implant company guidelines.**
7. **You will need to be aware of the risks involved with surgery** and the long-term care following an implant. You must follow the YAIS guidance with regard to meningitis vaccination. **You should inform your GP of ear infections in the implanted ear immediately and also contact YAIS.**
8. **You need to take good care of your child's sound processor.**
The cost to the NHS of replacing a sound processor is around £5500.
If you lose a processor please refer to the Lost Processor Policy for guidance.
We recommend that patients consider insuring the processors against loss.
If the lost processor is not found, future upgrades will be put back 5 years from the date the upgrade was due.

The Yorkshire Auditory Implant Service (YAIS) provides a life-long commitment to supporting your child as an implant user.

- a) YAIS guarantees to supply your child with necessary equipment and supply replacements as required. Please note that we may not always have the correct colour replacement in stock. The equipment provided will be chosen by the Team to facilitate optimal outcomes. If the parent/s decide on an alternative item, e.g. battery pack, this may be provided.
- b) YAIS will provide information and feedback on your child's progress through regular assessments.
- c) Your child's progress in learning to listen will be supported by means of:
 - Feedback and information about the programming of the implant
 - Information about additional equipment that can be used with the implant
 - Advice on the development of communication, listening, speech and language skills
 - Advice, information and training about appropriate support for children using cochlear implants, provided to the nurseries and schools attended by your child.
- d) YAIS will ensure a smooth transfer of care from the paediatric programme to the adult programme.
- e) Cochlear implants are technical devices which can fail. If this should happen, you will be supported by the team and re-implantation will be offered as quickly as possible.

YAIS aims to work with parents as partners.

This document aims to describe those areas which affect the successful use of a cochlear implant. If you feel able to take on these responsibilities and work with the Service, you will be giving your child the best opportunity to do well with their cochlear implant.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the implant team.

We / I
agree to take on the responsibilities as outlined in the Parent's Agreement in order to support
our/my childas a cochlear implant user.

Signature(s) Date.....
..... Date.....