

## Patient information factsheet

# Your speech audiometry appointment

We have given you this factsheet because you have been referred to the audiology department for speech audiometry. It explains what speech audiometry is and what to expect at your appointment. We hope it will help to answer some of the questions you may have. If you have any further questions or concerns, please speak to a member of our team.

### What is speech audiometry?

Speech audiometry is a type of hearing test designed to assess how well you can distinguish certain words when you hear them spoken at different levels of volume.

### Why have I been referred for speech audiometry?

You may have been referred for speech audiometry for a number of reasons, including to:

- confirm a diagnosis
- support results from other previous tests
- assess your ability to understand speech in quiet and noisy environments
- determine how well you might get on with a hearing aid (if you have a hearing loss)

### What will happen during the test?

During the speech audiometry test, we will ask you to wear some headphones. We will then play a series of single words through the headphones and ask you to repeat back whatever you hear, whether it be a whole word or just part of a word. We will play the words at different volumes, so some words may be very clear and others may be very difficult to hear.

We will test both of your ears, one at a time. If you have better hearing in one ear than the other, we will usually start with the ear you can hear better with to help you get used to the test.

During the test, you will also hear a 'whooshing' noise in the ear that isn't being tested. We will ask you to ignore this sound and just focus on listening to the words being played in your other ear. The 'whooshing' noise will also vary in volume throughout the test, but we will warn you beforehand if it is going to be loud.

You can ask us to stop or pause the test at any stage. For example, if the sound level becomes too loud for you.

### Will there be any other tests on the day?

We will do a basic hearing test before speech audiometry to assess your hearing ability. This hearing test usually takes about 15 minutes. It will involve pushing a button when you hear a beep sound.

Occasionally, we may do a few additional tests. These are usually quick tests which don't require you to do anything. If we think you may benefit from these tests, we will explain them to you in more detail during your appointment and check that you are happy to go ahead with them.

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## How long will the appointment take?

We allow one and a half hours for a speech audiometry appointment. However, the exact length of your appointment will vary depending on the number of tests you have. If you don't need any additional tests, your appointment will be much shorter than this.

## Are there any risks?

There are no known risks with speech audiometry.

## When will I receive my results?

We will usually be able to talk through your test results at the end of your appointment. However, we will not be able to discuss any diagnoses with you. If you have questions about a diagnosis, please contact your consultant.

## Contact us

If you have any questions or concerns about your appointment, please contact us.

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