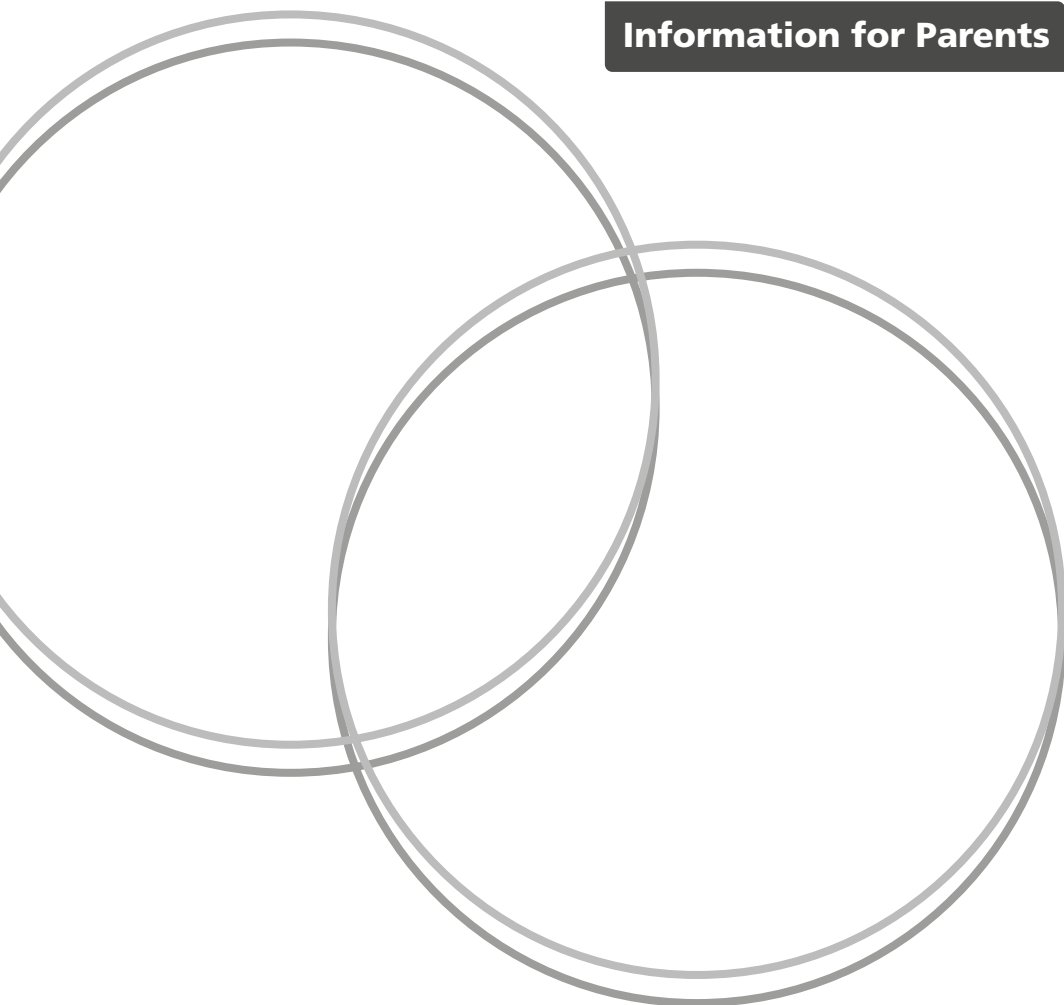


Testing for Congenital Cytomegalovirus Infection (CMV) in babies undergoing assessments for Hearing Loss

Information for Parents



You are receiving this leaflet because your baby has a probable or confirmed hearing difficulty affecting the inner ear, called a sensorineural hearing loss.

One of the possible reasons for a baby being born with a hearing loss is an infection called Cytomegalovirus infection (CMV). We offer to test every baby for this as soon as we can, ideally within the first 21 days of life. You will also be offered an appointment with a Paediatrician to consider other possible causes of hearing loss.

What is congenital CMV?

CMV is a common virus that can infect anyone through contact with bodily fluids. It may cause mild flu-like symptoms, however, most people are unaware of having it. If a pregnant woman catches the virus, she can pass it on to her unborn child. Congenital CMV is the name given when a baby is born with this infection.

Around 10-15% of babies born with CMV will have clear signs of the condition at birth (including problems with the brain, eyes, liver, bone marrow, and other organs). However, most babies with CMV will not show obvious signs, and hearing loss may be the only indication of this infection. It is important to know about it so that your baby can be offered appropriate monitoring and treatment, particularly as the hearing loss can progress over the first few years of life.

If CMV infection is identified early, there are antiviral medicines that can be offered as they have shown benefit in reducing the progression of hearing loss.

Arrangements for Testing Babies:

The Audiologist will offer to take a saliva swab to test for CMV during one of your appointments. The saliva sample is collected by placing a swab (which is like a cotton bud) inside your baby's cheek for 1 minute. If your baby is breastfed it should be taken at least 1 hour after the last feed.

Results:

The result usually takes up to 1 week to come through. If the result is negative you will usually be contacted by phone, or letter. If the result is suggestive of congenital CMV, you will be contacted by phone and your baby will be seen urgently by a Paediatrician or member of the Infectious Diseases Team.

If you have not received the results after one week, please contact the Community Paediatric department on **01865 231 959** or **community.paediatrics@ouh.nhs.uk**.

Resources:

[Cytomegalovirus childhood deafness | Deafness caused by CMV \(ndcs.org.uk\)](https://www.ndcs.org.uk/)

[Congenital CMV \(cmvaction.org.uk\)](https://www.cmvaction.org.uk/)

Further information

If you would like an interpreter, please speak to the department where you are being seen.

Please also tell them if you would like this information in another format, such as:

- Easy Read
- large print
- braille
- audio
- electronic
- another language.

We have tried to make the information in this leaflet meet your needs. If it does not meet your individual needs or situation, please speak to your healthcare team. They are happy to help.

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