

DIAGNOSTIC INFANT HEARING ASSESSMENT (ABR TESTING)
Information for Parents

Your baby has an appointment for a **diagnostic hearing assessment**. This assessment is *different* to the newborn hearing screen your baby would have had shortly after birth.

The majority of babies that spend time at RCH, particularly in the NICU, are referred for a diagnostic hearing assessment. Your paediatrician, GP or nurse will have referred your baby if there are any risk factors for hearing loss.

A diagnostic hearing assessment is completed while your baby is **sleeping**. When you arrive you will be brought in to a quiet private room straight away. An audiologist will prepare your baby by sticking 3 recording stickers on the head. Once your baby is asleep, the recording stickers are connected to a computer and a small foam earplug is placed in to each ear.

To assist in getting the best possible results, please be aware:

- The test takes approximately 30-60 minutes.
- Come to the Audiology department – Desk A4, Specialist clinics A on the ground floor
- Bring baby's food and anything else you need to settle your baby to sleep
- Baby can be tested in your arms or in a pram
- Avoid using moisturisers or oils on baby's head on the appointment day
- Aim to arrive with your baby awake and try not to let your baby sleep on the way to the hospital; it may help to bring along another adult to keep baby awake in the car
- Your Audiologist will discuss the results with you on the day
- The test is fully bulk-billed through Medicare

Please don't hesitate to contact us on 9345 5566 or visit <https://www.rch.org.au/audiology/> if you have any questions.