



Criteria for referral to the London Health Sciences Cochlear Implant Program

Dear Parent and/or Audiologist:

Families considering application to the London Health Sciences Centre Cochlear Implant Program (LHSC-CIP) should be aware that a number of criteria are considered in the application process. Your Infant Hearing Program Audiologist can assist with review of the following eligibility criteria.

Current Eligibility Criteria for children include:

- **Age:** Children from 12 months to 17 years, 11 months
- **Degree of Hearing Loss:**
 - **Younger Children** (between 12 months and 24 months of age) must present with profound sensorineural hearing loss (defined as a pure tone average of 90 dB HL or worse) bilaterally
 - **Older Children** (between 25 months of age and 17 years 11 months of age) must present with severe to profound sensorineural hearing loss (defined as a pure tone average of 70 dB HL or worse) bilaterally
- **Limited Hearing Aid benefit:** Children should have been fit with a hearing aid(s) and have had a sufficient trial period (three months at a minimum) in order to determine hearing aid benefit. The LHSC-CIP may conduct aided testing in order to determine specific candidacy criteria related to hearing aid benefit.
- **No medical contraindications:** The CI Otolaryngologist will conduct a medical evaluation to determine your child's eligibility for implantation.
- **Spoken Language as the primary mode of communication**
- **Speech Perception skills in line with predicted aided potential:** The LHSC-CIP will conduct speech perception testing in order to determine your child's ability to use their residual hearing with hearing aids in place.
- **Educational placement with a strong auditory component**
- **Strong Motivation and Family Support**
- **Realistic Expectations**

Children who have been identified with an *Auditory Dys-synchrony (AD)* should not be referred until behavioural thresholds have been obtained in at least the moderately-severe sensorineural hearing loss range bilaterally and hearing aids have been fit in keeping with the Infant Hearing Program protocol. These children are still required to meet the above criteria as well.

Parents should consult with their Infant Hearing Program audiologist in order to determine whether a referral to the LHSC-CIP is appropriate given the above guidelines.

Sincerely,

The London Health Sciences Centre Cochlear Implant Team