

Team: Audiology Paediatric Team

CHSWG

Children's Hearing Assessment

There were 1000 children that ended up on the waiting list during lockdown all of which needed managing in the Children Hearing Assessment clinic. The department deferred these appointments and developed COVID SOPs to ensure that once outpatients resumed, we could see these patients in a time efficient and safe way for staff and patient. The SOP was trialled at the latter part of July in line with our national COVID guidance. Clinicians have worked super hard to ensure that all of these patients have been offered an appointment and at the time of CHSWG there were only 25 patients left on the waiting list.

Children Hearing Aid Reviews

These children continued to be supported via virtual appointment. This approach allowed us to highlight any particular patients that needed to be seen soon after national guidance allowed face to face appointments to resume. We were then able to work towards normal service, which is where we are now.

Audiology updated BDCS and SCS during this time, with the level of support we were able to offer during the different stages of lockdown.

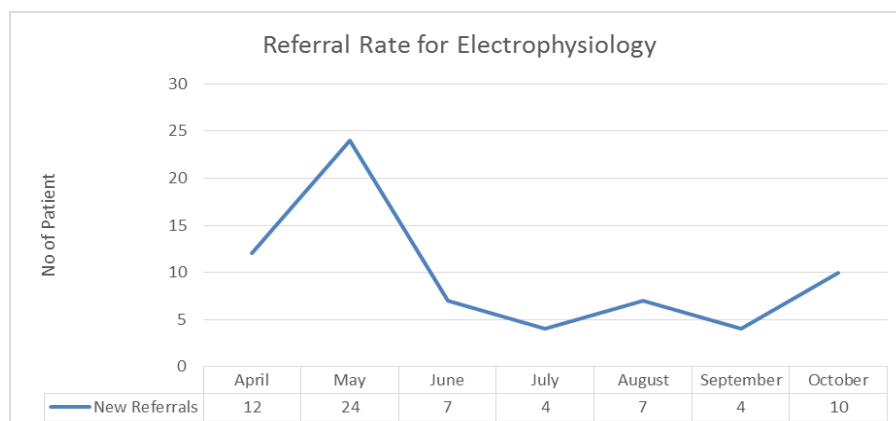
NHSP (Newborn Hearing Screening Program)

Enforcement of lockdown on 20th March forced the postponement of outpatient appointments. Guidance from Public Health England was circulated 30th March 2020. Following this audiologists were redeployed to support NHSP team with screening.

Diagnostic ABR testing were either completed on the maternity ward prior to the mum and baby being discharged or they were seen as an outpatient at WBCH (this was classed as a COVID cold site).

NHSP team also temporarily ceased outpatient appointments at RBH although clinics at WBCH and Wokingham continued. Babies were screened before discharge if possible which meant that on most occasions OAE2 was omitted. This lead to an increase of referrals as can be seen in the above figure. Normal screening protocol resumed on 1st June 2020 and referrals then reduced to previous levels.

This novel approach to joint working allowed both the NHSP screening team and Audiology to meet the national KPI's throughout lockdown. Both NHSP and Audiology also found it a really rewarding experience.



Item	Detail NHS Foundation Trust
Audiologist redeployment during lockdown	Lauren, Lisa and Hannah successfully retrained and supported the NHSP team during lockdown.
New Interacoustics Equipment coming in December	Having the capability of being able to conduct ASSR's on PCHI's has allowed the team to obtain more results from children. We have been granted some capital to buy some more paediatric equipment. This has been purchased and we are currently awaiting delivery. • Screening OAEs • Inter-acoustics Eclipse ASSR/ABR system • PA5 Warblers • Standalone Wide Band Tympanometers
ASSR National Guidance	Constantina has contributed to developing the BSA National Guidance into ASSR
CMV testing	The CMV testing pathway has since been signed off by Dr Needham and ratified at Audiology Clinical Governance. There are still a few teething problems with processing the labels through EPR. However, we are learning and hopefully these will be ironed out by the new year. So far the new pathway seems to be working well. We will try to gather figures to determine how much faster babies are now having testing completed.
Internal / External Peer Review Compliance	Internal Peer Review Rota proved to be a success and 100% of traces are being reviewed. Regional ABR meeting showed that for the external peer review as a group we are meeting our targets for agreement and time to conduct the review average is 3.1 days.
Estimation of behavioural levels from ABR	Constantina- completed an audit analysing 20 cases correlating estimated hearing levels from ABR with behavioural levels. Results were then reported to the Thames Valley ABR peer review group.
BHAR clinics	We have welcomed back Lisa Bull, Ed Aud, in the BHAR clinics with risk assessment completed
Consent to Share Form	This has been updated and finalized by our informational governance team. The new document allows parents to opt in / out of the three categories referenced in the documents. These include sharing information with: • SCS

	- Informing social services of being placed on the deaf register - Agreeing to family audiology being arranged, with the hope that these are completed prior to the child's paediatric appointment
National Safety Advice	Our action plan has been completed and signed off by the Trust.