

Guidance

Title: Statement of Purpose

The organisation's CQC Provider ID is 1-127898196. The registered manager at this organisation is Dr Carl Verschuur (email: C.A.Verschuur@southampton.ac.uk).

Cochlear Implants

USAIS requires a referral from Ear, Nose and Throat or Audiology professionals. USIAS is an all-age centre accepting referrals for children, teenagers and adults.

USAIS provides an assessment prior to cochlear implantation, cochlear implant surgery and support following surgery. The surgery for the cochlear implantation takes place in one of a number of local hospitals.

In accordance with the NICE Technology Appraisal Guidance 166, suitable candidates for cochlear implantation will have a severe to profound hearing loss and demonstrate limited benefit following a reasonable trial with appropriate hearing aids. Unaided hearing levels will be greater than 90dB(HL) at 2-4 kHz. For adults speech perception test scores should be in the region of <50-60% at 65 dB(A) or worse.

All patients are reviewed regularly to check the functioning of their device and to monitor their progress –this may be done via an appointment or via a questionnaire. Ongoing therapy sessions are offered according to need and parents as well as patients are invited to workshops (music and cochlear implants, how to use accessories with an implant, parent training programmes etc). Medical reviews are also over at specific intervals as per protocol unless requested earlier.

All the above practices are laid out in procedures and protocol documents available to all staff within the department and these in turn independently meet set standards published by: The British Cochlear Implant Group, The National Deaf Children's Society, and The Royal National Institute for Deaf People, the Map of Medicine and the NHS Commissioning Guidelines for Cochlear Implantation.

BAHA and other implantable devices

Referrals are accepted for patients who have a range of hearing losses which might be conductive, mixed or sensori-neural and these individuals might be suitable for Bone Anchored Hearing Aids (BAHA) or middle ear implants. A procedure for the assessment and life long follow up of these patients is available.

Auditory Processing Disorders Service

Children (from about 6 years of age) and adults suspected of having auditory processing disorders are referred to USAIS to facilitate assessment and intervention. The patient pathway is available. Currently the majority of these patients are self-funded or funded via health insurance.

Governance procedures

Regular audit of the USAIS' outcomes is carried out and published annually. Peer review is regularly carried out using a variety of methods e.g. the Audiology Services tool (assessment by a professional from another cochlear implant team), case presentation within the team, peer review, team membership on national cochlear implant forums and bodies which develop policies and procedures, continuing personal performance and development review for all staff, publications and presentations in peer reviewed journals and conferences.