

Paediatric Audiology Clinics at Western Health:

Western Health operates the following Specialist Clinic services for patients who require Audiological assessment and management. Patients will be triaged by Audiologists into one of the following management pathways according to specific clinical requirements:

1. Paediatric neonatal assessment clinic

For assessment of infants ≤ 6 months of age referred under the Victorian Infant Hearing Screening Program (VIHSP) or with a known risk factor.

2. Paediatric audiology clinic

For infants and children aged 6 months -18 years, that require audiological assessment and management.

Referrals seen in other Paediatric clinics at Western Health where a referral may be triaged into:

- Audiological conditions requiring medical management may be managed through Ear Nose and Throat clinics or Medical Paediatric clinics.

Referrals not seen at Western Health as services not provided:

- Assessment and management of Auditory Processing Disorders.
- Assessment and management of Vestibular Disorders.
- Fitting of assistive devices, Hearing aids, Cochlear Implants,

Alarm Symptoms:

- Where an acute intervention is required please refer the patient to the Emergency Department. If there is still concern regarding the referral please call the Women's and Children's Specialists Clinics (Outpatients) number 8345 1727 and a clinician will respond to your call within 24 hours.

Access & Referral Priority for Paediatric Audiology:

The clinical information provided in your referral will determine the triage category. The triage category will affect the timeframe in which the patient is offered an appointment.

URGENT Appointment timeframe 30 days	ROUTINE Appointment timeframe greater than 30 days, depending on clinical need.
Infants under 6 months who fail a VIHSP screen	Complex paediatrics where services are not available in the community.
Meningitis	Review of external assessment- Conductive Hearing Loss
Significant parental concern	Post- operative assessment
Positive Cytomegalovirus (CMV) serology	Suspected autism spectrum disorder
ENT indicates urgent/priority	Children 3-5 year old with significant language delay
Presentation of a sudden SN hearing loss	Failed School Nursing Service hearing screen.
Fractured skull	Behavioural problems
Pre-operative assessment where surgery is at risk of cancellation	Learning difficulties
Review of external assessment – confirmation of permanent hearing loss	Speech and language delay
Infants under 3 months referred from SCN who have passed VIHSP screen	Developmental Delay

Condition Specific Referral Guidelines:

Key information enables Western Health to triage patients to the correct category and provide treatment with fewer visits to outpatients, creating more capacity for care. If key information is missing, you may be asked to return the referral with the required information.

Paediatric Medicine:

Condition:	Key Information Points:	Clinical Investigations
Failed VIHSP.	Gestation.	Screen result
Speech delay.	Current status of receptive and expressive language. Referral to speech pathologist. VIHSP screen result. Previous audiology result.	
Pre- operative assessment.	Planned surgery type. Planned surgery date.	
Failed School Nursing Hearing screen.	Screen result. Ear history.	
Developmental delay.	Current status of receptive and expressive language. Referral to speech pathologist. VIHSP screen result. Previous audiology result.	

Other clinic interfaces and/or intra-dependencies

Allied Health Clinic	Other Clinic interfaces/co-dependencies i.e. Clinics
Paediatric Audiology	Paediatric Ear Nose and Throat Clinic