

Easy Read



Sgrinio Clyw Babanod Cymru
Newborn Hearing Screening Wales

Your baby's hearing screening test



GIG
CYMRU
NHS
WALES

Iechyd Cyhoeddus
Cymru
Public Health
Wales



www.phw.nhs.wales/newborn-hearing-screening



How to use this leaflet



This is an Easy Read leaflet. The words are easy to read and understand. Words in **bold blue** writing may be hard to understand. Difficult words are in **bold** the first time they are used.



You may need help and support to read and understand this leaflet. Ask someone you know to help you.



This leaflet is available in Welsh.

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What is newborn hearing screening?



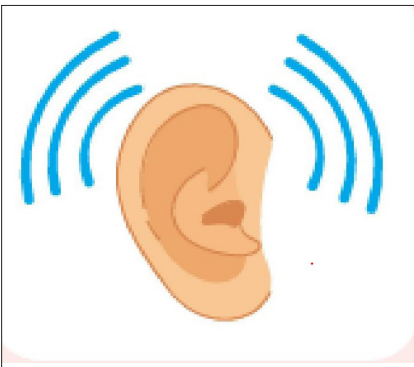
Your baby will be offered a hearing **screening** test.

This is offered in the first few weeks of their life.

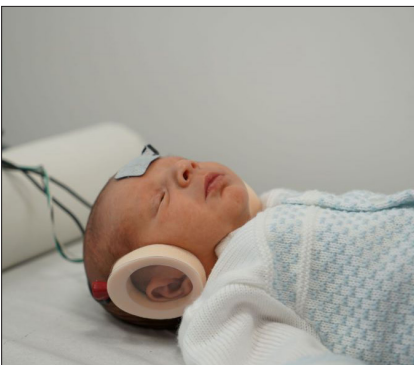
Taking part is your choice.



Screening means checking people for some types of health problems. When these are found early, they are easier to treat.



The hearing screening test can find out if your baby can hear.



Some babies need more than one test.



The test is quick and simple. It will not harm your baby.



The test does not find all babies who cannot hear.



It cannot stop babies having problems with their hearing.

Why should my baby have a hearing screening test?



Most babies are able to hear but some cannot.



Finding out early means you can get help for you and your baby.



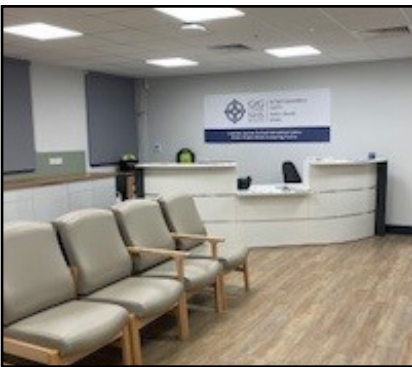
Babies who cannot hear may find it harder to learn to talk.

Most babies who cannot hear will be born into families who can hear.

About your baby's hearing test



Babies born in hospital may have the test before they go home.



Some babies do not have the test in hospital. They can have it in a clinic near to where they live.

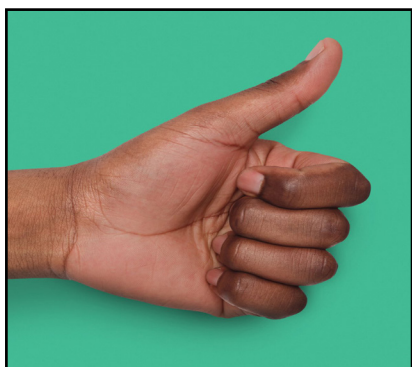


A **screener** will carry out the test.

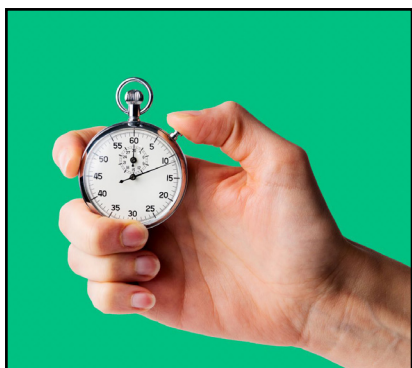
About the test



The test is done while your baby is settled or asleep.



It will not hurt or harm your baby.



It only takes a few minutes.

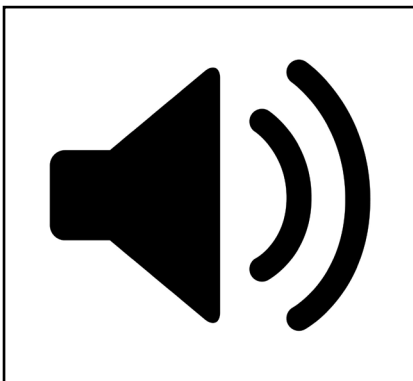


You can stay with your baby while the test is done.

There are two types of test that may be used:



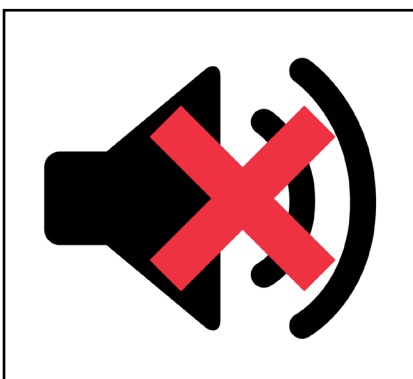
A small **soft-tipped earpiece** is put into your baby's ear.



This makes a clicking sound.



This test tells the screener if your baby can hear the sound.

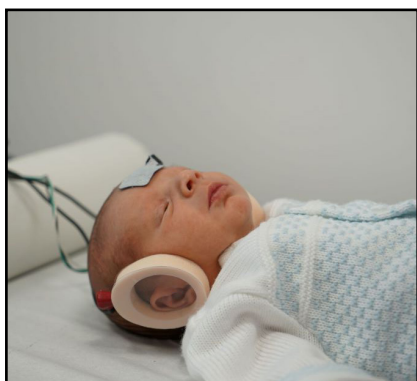


Some babies cannot hear the sound. This does not mean they have a hearing loss. They will be offered another test.

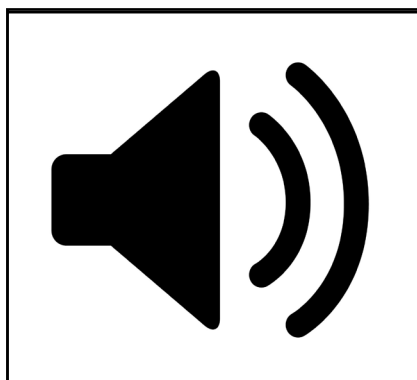
If your baby needs the second test:



Three small sticky pads are put on your baby's head and neck.



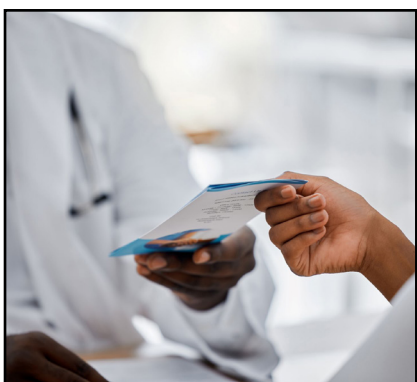
Small headphones are put over your baby's ears.



This will make a clicking sound.



This test tells the screener if your baby can hear the sound.



The screener will tell you the result of the test straightaway.



They will tell you if another test is needed.

Results

There are three possible results:

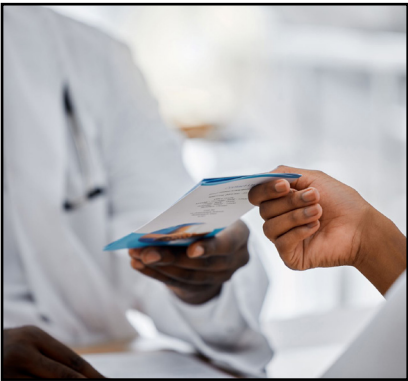


Clear response.

This means most babies can hear the sound in one or both ears.



This means your baby is not likely to have problems with their hearing.



The screener will give you more information.



They will tell you what to do if you are worried.

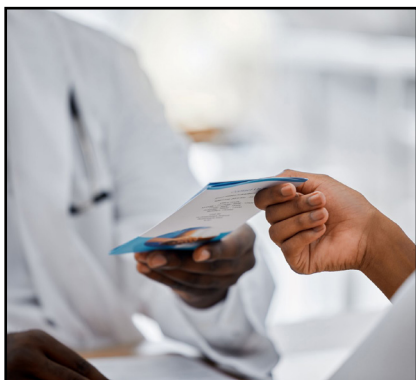


Clear response in one ear.

This means some babies can only hear sound in one ear.



You can choose to have another test for your baby.



The screener will give you more information.



They will tell you what to do if you are worried.



No clear response.

This means some babies cannot hear sound in either of their ears.



It does not mean your baby cannot hear.

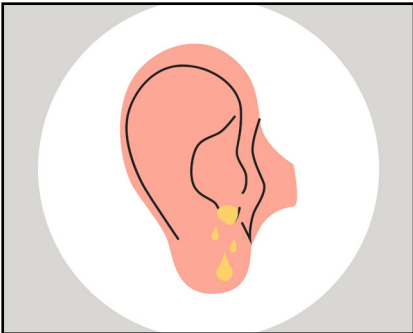


You will be offered another test for your baby.

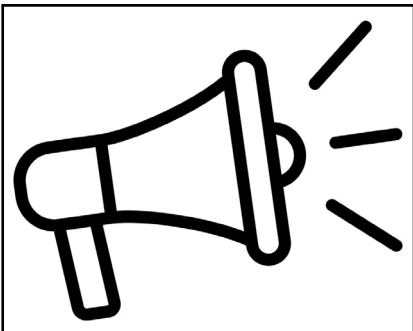
Clear responses may not be seen if:



Your baby is **unsettled**.



There is **fluid** in the ear from the birth.

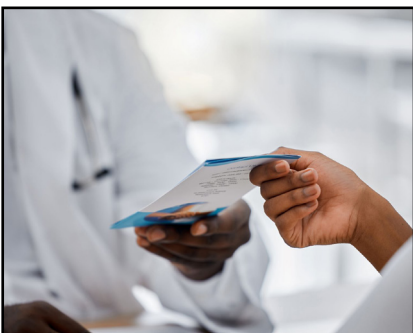


There is too much noise near your baby when the test is done.



Your baby has a **hearing loss**.

This means your baby may not be able to hear as well as they should.



The screener will give you more information about what happens next.

Further tests



Some babies need more tests with an **audiologist**.

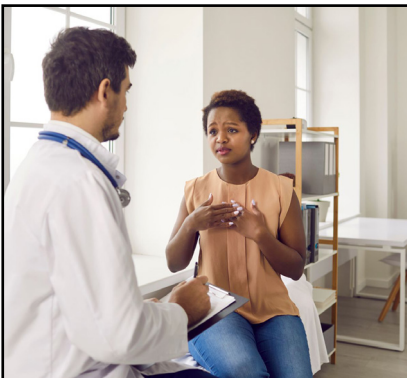
An **audiologist** is a hearing **specialist**.



An appointment will be sent within 4 weeks of your baby's test result.



This allows time for your baby's hearing to develop.



We know this can be a worrying time.

Talk to your midwife, health visitor, doctor or someone you trust.



You will be given a red book.

Take it with you when you see anyone about your baby's health.



Tell your midwife or health visitor if you move home.



Let your midwife or health visitor know if you need any support.

Where can I get more information?



Phone:

South East Wales: 029 2184 3568

South West Wales: 01792 343364

North Wales: 03000 848710



E-mail:

newborn-hearing-screening@wales.nhs.uk



You can contact us in Welsh or English. It will take us the same amount of time to answer you whichever language you choose.



For more information about screening and the different tests, visit our website.



Go for screening when invited.



Keep up to date with you and your baby's **vaccinations** when offered.



Stop smoking. You can get free help to support you to stop smoking.

Ring Help Me Quit on: 0800 085 2219



Eat healthy food.



Move more.



Drink less alcohol.