

NBHSW Interim Operational procedure for babies with hydrocephalus:

Babies with hydrocephalus are treated with a ventriculo-peritoneal shunt (VP shunt) to relieve pressure on the brain.

A small number of babies with a VP shunt have a programmable device (PVP shunt).

There is a small risk of the function of the PVP shunt being affected by electro magnetic forces in hearing screening and assessment equipment. Further guidance is being developed.

If NBHSW or a screener is advised that a baby who is eligible for screening has a 'shunt', the screener **should not** proceed to screen the baby.

The baby's details should be passed to the Programme Coordinator and Newborn Screening Manager.

The Programme Coordinator will contact local medical teams and /or neurosurgical contacts to establish what type of shunt has been used.

The screener will be advised whether to continue with screening or whether a referral for assessment has been made.

These babies may need special arrangements for a hearing assessment in a centre where the PVP shunt can be reset if required.

In South Wales, this would usually be UHW

In North Wales, this would be Alder Hey.

References:

<https://phescreening.blog.gov.uk/2019/07/19/listening-to-the-needs-of-local-newborn-hearing-screening-providers/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/surveillance-and-audiological-referral-guidelines/guidelines-for-surveillance-and-audiological-referral-for-infants-and-children-following-newborn-hearing-screen>

<https://www.thebsa.org.uk/interim-safety-advice-to-audiologists-on-performing-hearing-tests-and-fitting-hearing-aids-to-patients-with-a-programmable-ventriculo-peritoneal-shunt-pvp-shunt/>