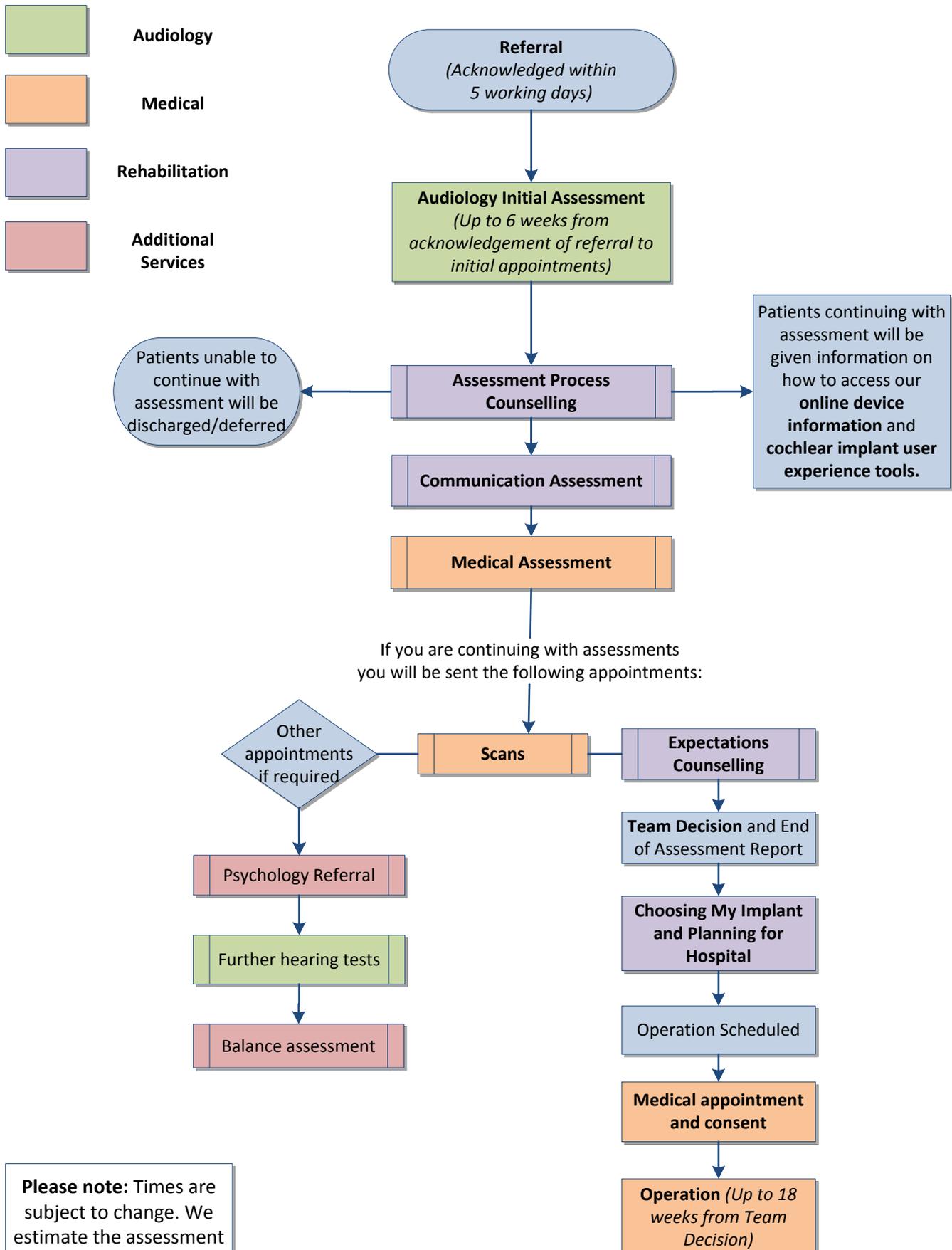


Schedule of assessment appointments for Adults



Please note: Times are subject to change. We estimate the assessment process (up to Team Decision) will take around 3-4 months.

Description of Appointments

Audiology Initial Assessment - You will be seen by an Audiologist who will assess your hearing and any benefit you get from your hearing aids.

Communication – One of the Rehabilitation Therapists will meet with you to discuss your communication needs and help us assess the benefit you might get from a cochlear implant.

Assessment Process Counselling – Your results will be explained to you and you will be given some information about what to expect during the assessment and some information about cochlear implants. You will also be given information about how to access our **device information website** which will give you more information about the three different cochlear implant devices we offer. This will enable you to find out more about them and help you choose the right device for you. You will also be given information about our **CI recipient experience website**. Here you will be able to see various video clips (these are also sub-titled and translated into BSL) of adults who have an implant talk about their experiences. We encourage you to look at these websites since previous patients have found them very helpful.

Medical Assessment - You will meet the surgeon who will ask you about your health and history. He will explain to you about the surgery and you can ask him any questions.

If you are continuing with the assessment you will be sent appointments for the following:

Scans – If you have not already had scans these usually take place at Southampton General Hospital and requested by the surgeon following your discussion at the initial visit. The hospital makes this appointment and will inform you directly.

Expectations Counselling – At a later date, (after the scan results are received at the centre) a member of the team will meet with you to discuss with you about how we, and you, feel an implant will be of benefit to you and whether there are any possible limitations to benefit.

Other appointments that may be required:

Psychology Referral – If you would like support with the emotional impact of your hearing loss and the impact of this on yourself and your family, then we can make a referral to local services. Please let us know at any time during the assessment if you would like us to do this.

Further hearing tests – We may need to repeat your audiology tests. An audiologist may also carry out further tests where tones are presented through headphones and you do not have to do anything – just relax. The audiologist will attach some sticky pads to your head since these will pick up responses from the hearing nerve.

Balance Assessment – We may need to carry out some balance tests if your history indicates that you have had some difficulties in the past. This might be helpful in choosing which ear to implant.

Team Decision - When the assessment is complete, and the surgeon has looked at the scans, we will have a Team Meeting where members of the team will discuss your potential to benefit from an implant and a recommendation will be made. We will contact you that day, if at all possible.

Choosing My Implant and Planning for Hospital - This is the stage when you will choose which cochlear implant device you would like to have. One of the Rehabilitation Therapists will also be able spend some time with you going through practical ideas on how to prepare for your surgery and the period after that.

Operation – The operation will take place at one of five hospitals in Southampton and Portsmouth. The operation can take between 1.5 and 4 hours and usually requires an overnight stay.