



Pediatric Hearing Management Clinic

The Pediatric Hearing Management Clinic (PHMC) provides a comprehensive family-centered approach to the evaluation and management of children with hearing impairment. Our multidisciplinary team is focused on patient care, education and research.

The PHMC treats children who have been diagnosed with the following:

- Congenital deafness
- Unilateral or bilateral sensorineural hearing loss
- Auditory neural spectrum disorder
- Conductive hearing loss caused by aural atresia, microtia and ossicular abnormalities

All of a child's hearing health care providers are in one setting through the PHMC, which is convenient for parents because multiple appointments with several specialists can be scheduled within one block of time. Each PHMC session is scheduled for approximately two hours, and children spend time with each specialist for evaluation.

Specialists from several areas may be involved in the child's evaluation and management process. Below is a brief description of the evaluations.

Pediatric Ear Surgeon:

The pediatric otolaryngology visit includes an examination of the child and discussion of possible etiologies of the hearing impairment. Laboratory and radiologic evaluations may be recommended and arranged. Treatment options, including possible surgical interventions when applicable, are discussed.

Audiology:

Topics covered during appointments with the audiologist include an overview of the hearing management process, discussion of the child's hearing sensitivity and its possible implications, an overview of hearing assistive technology, and a review of support organizations. Children in the PHMC will still be seen for separate appointments by pediatric audiologists as they go through the hearing (re)habilitation process.

Speech-Language Pathology:

During the Communication Consult the child's auditory ("listening" skills), speech (sound production and speech intelligibility), and language (receptive and expressive vocabulary/grammar, etc.) skills and abilities will be discussed and assessed.

Genetics:

The genetic counselor will take a detailed family history and review the child's medical history for features suggestive of known genetic causes of hearing loss. Appropriate genetic testing may be offered and recurrence risks for family members will also be reviewed. Referral for a formal physical examination by a medical geneticist may also be offered.

At the conclusion of the appointments, the team will evaluate and discuss the child's case and determine the best management plan for the child and family. Each family will receive a letter outlining the evaluation results and the team's recommendations.

Some insurance companies exclude coverage for hearing loss. Please contact your insurance provider if you are unsure if hearing loss is covered.

To make an appointment or if you have questions, please call our coordinator, Erin Depew, at 216.445.0075.