

Audiology

Cochlear Implants



Vision

A Native Community that enjoys physical, mental, emotional and spiritual wellness.

Mission

Working together with the Native Community to achieve wellness through health and related services.

Audiology

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What happens next?

If you are a candidate for a cochlear implant, it will take several office visits, hard work, and time to learn to use the new hearing device.

Using a cochlear implant may be harder for those who lost their hearing before they learned to speak. Some customer-owners may even need to see a speech therapist to learn spoken language.



The Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium and Southcentral Foundation jointly own and manage the Alaska Native Medical Center under the terms of Public Law 105-83. These parent organizations have established a Joint Operating Board to ensure unified operation of health services provided by the Medical Center.



What is a cochlear implant?

A cochlear implant is a surgical device that helps profoundly deaf and severely hard of hearing people hear sounds when hearing aids do not work for them.

The exterior piece fits like a hearing aid behind the ear; the interior piece is placed in the inner ear during surgery.

How does it work?

The exterior piece picks up sound and sends it across the skull to the interior piece, this way the sound avoids the damaged part of the ear.

Who can have a cochlear implant?

If hearing aids do not work well, both children and adults may be able to get a cochlear implant. Children must be at least 1 year old. Adults must go through testing to see if a cochlear implant will help them.

Will a cochlear implant help me?

To see if a cochlear implant will help, you will:

- Meet with an audiologist (hearing specialist) for hearing tests and to talk about the cochlear implant.
- Wear hearing aids for four to six months.
- Meet with an ear, nose, and throat (ENT) doctor for a medical check-up, x-rays, and to talk about the surgery.