

Audiologist

An audiologist is someone who has been trained to understand how hearing works and can carry out tests to check people's hearing. The audiologist may have assessed your hearing when you were under seven years of age

This transition leaflet is part of a series produced by the North West Cleft Lip and Palate Network



This leaflet only gives general information. You must always discuss your treatment with the appropriate member of staff. Do not rely on this leaflet alone for information about your treatment. This information can be made available in other languages and formats if requested.

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Cleft Department

Who's
who on
the cleft
team?



Surgeon

Cleft surgeons are specially trained doctors who are experts at operating on people's heads, faces and mouths. They will have helped to repair your cleft lip and/or palate by doing an operation when you were younger.

You will see your cleft surgeon at all your routine review appointments. You would also see them before and after any further operations you may need and/or choose to have.

Clinical Nurse Specialist

Clinical nurse specialists are nurses who are experts in caring for children with a cleft lip and/or palate. They will have worked with your parents when you were younger to make sure you stayed healthy. As you get older the clinical nurse specialists will be there for you if you wish to talk to them.

Speech and Language Therapist

Speech and language therapists help you with any concerns you may have about your speech. Your speech and language therapist will see you at your review appointments. You may also see them for separate appointments.

If needed, they can organise special appointments to look at the way your palate works when you speak. This may involve a videofluoroscopy (x-ray) and/or nasendoscopy (a tiny camera).

Please ask a member of the Cleft Team if you would like a leaflet that helps to explain these in more detail.

Dentist

Dentists are specialised in looking after the teeth and gums of children with a cleft lip and/or palate. You will see the team dentist when you attend your review appointments.

You may also see them for individual appointments if needed. It is still really important that you carry on seeing your local dentist every six months as well as the dentist on the Cleft Team.

Clinical Psychologist

A clinical psychologist is someone who has had special training in how people think, feel, behave and relate to each other. They are here to support you and your family with any concerns you may experience when living with a cleft lip and/or palate. A clinical psychologist will be at your review appointments. They are also available for individual appointments if needed.

Orthodontist

Orthodontists are dentists who specialise in helping to straighten your teeth and make sure your jaws fit together well. They will check your teeth and jaw, giving advice and treatment if needed. Not all patients need their teeth straightened but if you do, braces may be fitted. Your orthodontist will usually meet you and your family at review appointments. They often start seeing patients around seven years old, but sometimes provide advice at earlier ages.

Clinical Geneticist

A cleft lip and/or palate can sometimes run in families, just like your hair and eye colour. When you are older a geneticist could help you to explore where your cleft came from and whether it runs in your family.