



UNIVERSITY OF
**NORTHERN
COLORADO**

***University of Northern Colorado
Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology Clinic
COCHLEAR IMPLANT CLINIC***

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a cochlear implant?

A cochlear implant is an FDA approved medical device that can restore hearing function to individuals with significant hearing loss.

There are two different types of cochlear implants, a standard cochlear implant and a hybrid cochlear implant.

How do I know if a cochlear implant is a good option for me?

You need to be evaluated for cochlear implant candidacy to know if a cochlear implant is a good option. Candidates for cochlear implants must have a moderate to profound sensorineural hearing loss in both ears and show a certain amount of difficulty understanding speech, even with properly fit hearing aids. Scheduling a cochlear implant candidacy evaluation can help us determine if the type and degree of your hearing loss, as well as your speech understanding scores with hearing aids make you a good candidate.

What can I expect during the cochlear implant candidacy evaluation?

The cochlear implant evaluation lasts 2-3 hours and consists of four parts:

1. Hearing evaluation
2. Hearing aid fit and verification
3. Speech testing while you wear the hearing aids
4. Counseling regarding the results and next steps

If I am a cochlear implant candidate, what happens next?

If it is determined that you are a good candidate for an implant, you will be given more information about cochlear implants, and then the decision is up to you. Obtaining a cochlear implant requires a surgery. UNC has partnered with Dr. David Kelsall, a well-respected surgeon at Rocky Mountain Cochlear Implant Clinic. Following your implant candidacy evaluation, a report can be sent to Dr. Kelsall so that you can be scheduled for an appointment for further medical testing and consult with Dr. Kelsall regarding the surgery.

What happens after surgery?

You will be seen by Dr. Kelsall for a post operative appointment 1-2 weeks following surgery to see how you are healing and to have your stitches removed. All cochlear implant programming will be scheduled in our clinic. You can expect to come in for appointments more frequently within the first few months.

Information about **Programming appointment schedules & implant services** follows:

Initial Activation

Around 2-4 weeks after surgery, your implant will be activated and programmed for the first time. This appointment can be 1-2 hours long.

Follow Up Programming

Programming appointments are normally scheduled 1 week, 1 month, 2-3 months, 6 months, and 12 months following the initial activation. After the first year, programming appointments are scheduled annually (or earlier as needed). These appointments are typically 1-2 hours long.

Aural Rehabilitation

We can work with you to develop customized listening practice to assist you in training your brain to learn to hear with your new implant.

Wireless Technology

You may want to use wireless/Bluetooth technology to enhance your listening experience. Some of these wireless devices will come with your cochlear implant device. We can assist you in utilizing remote microphones, phone clips, and TV streamers along with your cochlear implant.

What is the cost?

For candidacy evaluations and programming appointments, the client is responsible for payment at the time of service. Cost varies depending on the type of service provided. Generally, implant related services are covered by insurance. Our business manager can bill your insurance provider. If you have met your deductible and the service is covered, the insurance company will reimburse you directly. If you have any additional questions you can contact our clinic at 970-351-2012

Medical/Surgical billing questions should be directed to Rocky Mountain Cochlear Implant Clinic staff. Their telephone number is: (303) 783-9220

When are cochlear implant candidacy evaluation appointments scheduled?

Variable depending on the semester. Please contact the clinic at 351-2012 to schedule an appointment.