

Home-Based MAPping Service for Nucleus (Cochlear Limited) Recipients – Coming Soon!



February 2017

The SCIP is always looking to improve patient access to services. We are mindful of the challenges that a lot of patients face, in time and money, to get to our clinics. To help with this we are starting a new service where patients can be MAPped in their own home over the internet. The MAPping session can be completed easily with the same efficiency as a clinic visit.

What does a home-based MAPping service involve?

If you indicate an interest in this service (see below) the clinic will contact you and arrange a time to carry out MAPping in your home. Once this has been confirmed, you'll be sent a courier package with equipment for carrying out MAPping and programming of your speech processor. When you receive the equipment you'll need to turn it on; we'll provide you all the instructions needed for this, and it is quite easy.

The Audiologist will then connect to the equipment remotely from our clinic in Christchurch, via the internet. You don't need an internet connection as this is built in to the equipment we send you. The Audiologist will carry out MAPping in the normal manner. You'll be able to talk to the Audiologist by video and provide feedback about the MAPping procedure, as you would in clinic.

At the end of the MAPping session we would love to hear your feedback on your experience of the service. You will find a feedback questionnaire in the kit you receive. Once that is completed we'll ask you to return the equipment by a courier bag that is included.

Will it be available to everyone?

No; the service initially is only available to users of Cochlear Limited implant systems and in particular is only available to users of N5 (CP810) and N6 (CP910, CP920, and CP950) speech processors. If you're not sure if you have one of these devices, contact us and we'll confirm if you do. For technical reasons, a home-based service is not available for MED-EL users at present.

What services are available?

The service only involves MAPping of your implant system. There is no Habilitation or Rehabilitation. We won't be able to carry out speech perception testing or record an Audiogram. These may be added in future once the technology evolves.

Are there any other restrictions?

We'll be starting the service in a planned fashion to ensure that the service operates well before opening it to all patients. We anticipate starting the service in late March.

Initially the service will be limited to the following patients:

- Adult patients; those over the age of 19 years
- Patients who are at least 6 months post-implant, with stable MAPs
- Patients who don't require Habilitation or Rehabilitation, and only need reMAPping
- Those with a support person (a family member or other) with normal hearing to support you if you are "off air" during the session and unable to hear the Audiologist instructions

Although home-based, the service will operate during weekdays, only, between 9 am and 5 pm. It isn't available at weekends or after hours.

Depending on individual circumstances, some patients will have MAPs that are not suited to home-based MAPping. If this is the case, you will be advised by clinic staff.

Initially, not all Audiology staff will be trained to provide home-based MAPping; this means that you may work with a different Audiologist than you have been used to.

Will home-based MAPping replace clinic-based services?

No; this service is an option that may reduce the travel and cost associated with coming to clinic. Patients can elect for home-based services but will still have access to clinic-based services if they prefer.

The service is not suitable for those in the early stages post-implant where there may be a need for Habilitation or Rehabilitation, or there is a need to monitor the suitability of MAPs via Audiogram or speech perception testing. Patients in the early stages of implantation may not be able to reliably report the suitability of a MAP without these measures.

Further Information

If you may be interested in home-based MAPping contact our Clinical Manager, Jill Mustard, at our Christchurch clinic or by emailing: jill.mustard@scip.co.nz.

In the first instance we are running the new home-based service in the greater Christchurch area. Once the service is running smoothly for patients in greater Christchurch we expect to be able to offer it to all patients.

If you don't live in the greater Christchurch region you may still register interest in the service as we expect to offer it as an option for all of our patients in future.