



Appendix N

SACIG GUIDELINES FOR NEW COCHLEAR IMPLANT CENTRES

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Cochlear Implantation is a complex, expensive and effective healthcare intervention. Appropriate selection of candidates, successful surgery, accurate programming of the device and intensive skilled rehabilitation are needed to achieve the best results. This is provided by a diverse specialist multidisciplinary team working both within the Implant centre and also in the community. In order to provide cochlear implantation to a high standard SACIG believes that certain minimum requirements should be met. The facilities and services offered should comply with the SACIG document: Quality Standards for Cochlear Implantation in South Africa.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR A NEW COCHLEAR IMPLANT CENTRE

1. Location

1.1 Before establishing a new cochlear implant centre there should be evidence that the regional demand is not being met adequately by the existing CI centre(s).

1.2 The location of cochlear implant centres and the distance patients have to travel is affected by the density of population. Where appropriate, treatment should be provided close to the patient's home. However, the complexity of providing such a specialist service as cochlear implantation to a high standard for a relatively small number of patients inevitably means that there will be only a limited number of centres in South Africa.

1.3 Where the need for a new centre is demonstrated, a system of mentorship should be encouraged with other more experienced teams and across all professional groups.

2. SERVICE STRUCTURE

This should be in accordance with the SACIG Quality Standards Document

It is recommended that for the first 12 months a new team only implants adult patients.