

"When You Get the Cochlear Implant"...A Case Study



listen **talk** read **succeed**

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OBJECTIVES

1. Reflect on a family's recent experience with the cochlear implant candidacy process
2. Identify assumptions that can arise for caregivers as they go through the cochlear implant candidacy process
3. Determine actionable steps providers can take to better support families throughout the cochlear implant candidacy process

ASSUMPTIONS THAT AROSE FOR CAREGIVERS GOING THROUGH CI CANDIDACY PROCESS

If I'm asked to choose a CI company (MED-EL, Cochlear, or Advanced Bionics) they must think my child is going to be a candidate.

When my child receives a CI, they will have the ability to learn to listen and talk.

If my child has a profound hearing loss, they will be able to get a CI.

When a medical professional says, "We should be good to go," I don't have any concerns about my child's candidacy.



**WHAT OTHER ASSUMPTIONS
CAN ARISE FOR CAREGIVERS
GOING THROUGH THE CI
CANDIDACY PROCESS?**





CHLOE'S STORY

- Identified on NBHS; bilateral, profound sensorineural hearing loss
- Provider attended initial audiology appt with family at medical center
- After audiology, family and provider met with ENT
- Chloe had anatomy scan and the family received results electronically via health portal
- Mom contacted ENT and they met virtually (provider was present)
- Family decided to move forward with a CI
- The ENT and audiologist had a conversation with the family post-surgery
- The family did not have a positive experience at Chloe's activation appointment
- Follow up appointments with audiologist, along with provider guidance, led Mom to a decision she had control over



WHAT WE CAN DO AS INTERVENTION PROVIDERS

- Focus on what you can control
- Encouraging Advocacy through questions, etc.
- Prep for provider's role in medical appts; family in agreement
- **"If,"** not "when"
- Be specific about criteria for CI candidacy early and often
- Interprofessional collaboration

**WHAT ELSE CAN WE
DO AS INTERVENTION
PROVIDERS?**







QUESTIONS?

THANK YOU!

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