# Typical Patient Journey for a child born with a Cleft Palate

## Maternity Unit
Referral to Cleft Team on the day of birth. The Cleft Nurse Specialist (CNS) visits baby within 24hrs of referral to offer feeding help and information. Newborn Hearing Screening test at local hospital and follow-up as appropriate.

## New Baby Clinic
Initial Assessment. Parents introduced to the Team which includes the Surgeon, Anaesthetist, Paediatrician, Psychologist, ENT and CNS. Referral to Genetics if indicated.

## Inpatient stay
Surgery: Palate Repair. Follow up at 6 weeks with CNS. Speech Development advice given. Hearing test at local hospital at approx.

## Babble Workshop at 9-12 months combined with advice given by Dental Health Educators
Appointment with the Paediatric Dentist at 12 months.

## 5 years / 3 years +
### Cleft MDT Clinic
Assessment and review by: Surgeon (+ photos taken) ENT (+ Audiologist for hearing test) SLT (+ recordings) Paediatric Dentist Psychologist.

### Speech Surgery if required
Hearing tests at 3 years locally.

## 3 years / 18mths - 2 years
### Speech & Language Therapy Assessment
From 18 months: Some children will need therapy - this will be arranged locally. Audiology at 18 months.

## 8 years / 10 years / 12 years / 12 - 15 years
### Cleft MDT Clinic
Assessment and review by: Surgeon (+ photos taken) ENT (+ Audiologist for hearing test) SLT (+ recordings) Orthodontist, Paediatric Dentist Psychologist

### Joint Appointment at 12 years with Paediatric Dentist and Orthodontist
### Orthodontics
Treatment appointments as required.

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**Welsh Centre for Cleft Lip and Palate, Morriston Hospital, Swansea**

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**Figure Legend**

- Maternity Unit
- New Baby Clinic
- Inpatient stay
- Babble Workshop
- Cleft MDT Clinic
- Speech & Language Therapy Assessment
- Appointment with the Paediatric Dentist
- Joint Appointment at 12 years
- Orthodontics

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**Please turn over**
It is very important to recognise that every child is an individual and will follow their own unique journey. This is a guide, and all dates are approximate.

At any stage, please feel free to ask the Cleft Team "where have we got to?" or "what happens next?".

Additional Notes

About Inpatient stays: Inpatient stays will normally be in Morriston Hospital. You can expect to see the surgeon before and after the operation. The speech and language therapist and specialist nurse will visit you on the ward as well.

MDT = Multi-Disciplinary Team
CNS = Cleft Nurse Specialist
SLT = Speech and Language Therapy

Speech surgery: Some children with Cleft Palate may require other operations during their patient journey. These might include an operation to improve speech. These options will be discussed with you should the need arise.

Osteotomies: Children with a Cleft Palate will occasionally need an Osteotomy to correct the position of the jaw or jaws. This is called Orthognathic Surgery.

Hearing Assessments: In addition to the hearing assessments indicated above, further assessments will be carried out at intervals as appropriate throughout childhood.

Speech and Language Therapy: In addition to the speech assessments indicated above, further assessments may be carried out and/or your child may be referred to Speech Therapy at any time. Occasionally treatment is carried out together with the Restorative Dentist (for example, when a Speech Bulb is required).

Psychology: The Cleft Team Psychologist can be contacted at any other time during the patient journey to discuss any worries or concerns.

Cleft Nurse Specialist: Will support the family through regular contact in the early years.

Cleft Coordinator: Can be contacted on 01792 703810 (answering machine for outside normal working hours)

South Wales Cleft Team Web Site: [http://www.wales.nhs.uk/cleft-team](http://www.wales.nhs.uk/cleft-team)
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