



**The Presbyterian Board of Governors
Cochlear Implant Center of Excellence at GBMC**

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Cochlear Implant Candidacy Evaluation Appointment at GBMC

Your hearing healthcare provider has recommended you for a cochlear implant evaluation based on your recent hearing test and/or your ability to understand speech information. This evaluation is a time to gather information and to determine if a cochlear implant is a good option for you. We look forward to serving you. Please contact our office at 443-849-8400 or email Henry at hrodriguez@gbmc.org to schedule a cochlear implant candidacy appointment.

Your candidacy visit:

- Patients 45+ years
 - Will complete a brain health screening to see how you process information and the speed in which that occurs.
 - This information will assist the implant team to tailor service to meet your needs.
- Hearing Check:
 - If you have a recent hearing test, be sure to bring it to this appointment.
 - We will evaluate you hearing with and without your hearing aid(s) including listening for soft sounds, repeating words in quiet, and sentences in noise.
- Counseling:
 - Review test results with you.
 - Provide an overview of how a cochlear implant works.
 - Discuss the process of obtaining a cochlear implant, an overview of the surgery, and expectations following implantation.
 - Address any questions you may have.
 - Review next steps for a medical evaluation and surgical consent.

Important Takeaways:

- A cochlear implant is a two-part system that allows an external component to pick up sound and send it to an internal device placed just below the skin.
- Surgery is a 90-minute outpatient procedure with minimal discomfort. You will have a bandage over your ear for 2 days.
- While a hearing aid amplifies sound, a cochlear implant will bypass the damaged portion of your inner ear (cochlea) and provide electrical current that offers improved access to sound and speech understanding.
- We offer rehabilitation services to help you improve your listening skills and help manage your equipment with confidence.
- On average, you will have 3 programming appointments in the first year.
- Using your cochlear implant all day (10+ hours/day), will ensure optimal success.
- Most patients report significant improvement in their quality of life after cochlear implantation.