

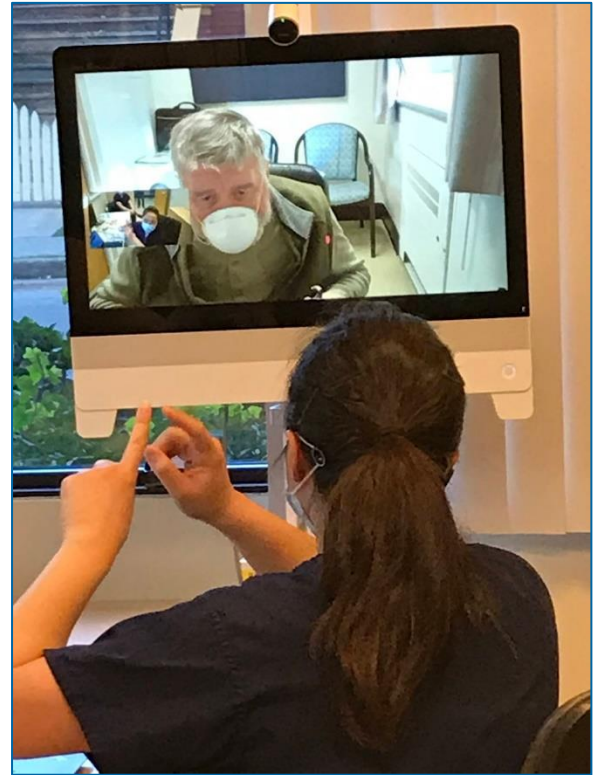
Remote Cochlear Mapping Expansion to Campbell River

January 2025

Background

In December 2020, in collaboration with the Virtual Care Services team at Island Health, the Adult Cochlear Program at St. Paul's Hospital in Vancouver launched the Remote Cochlear Implant Program. This program enables implant recipients to undergo mapping (programming) of their device through a virtual platform. Patients are connected to their audiologist via a dedicated desktop video conferencing system. Using remote access technology, the audiologist can take control of the programming software on the hospital laptop, enabling the patient's sound processor settings to be optimized.

Over 180 people with cochlear implants live on Vancouver Island, half or more of whom are 65 years of age or older. Appointments occur four weeks after surgery, then at periodic intervals for the first year, and then annually for life. Access to the remote mapping service means patients do not have to make the journey over to St. Paul's in Vancouver for their appointments, saving them time, money, and the stress of travel.



Program Expansion to Campbell River

When the service was launched four years ago, the site selected was in Victoria at Royal Jubilee Hospital. With the success of the remote mapping service since then, the team at Island Health approached the audiologists at St. Paul's last spring to see whether an additional location in the North Island could be considered, to better serve people living remotely from the capital region. Their answer was "yes, let's do this!"

The result? Island Health now offers remote cochlear mapping clinics at the Campbell River Hospital. The first patient was seen on December 13th, and regular clinics will be scheduled on a monthly basis. Patients are excited about not having to drive "south" or over to the mainland. The audiologists are thrilled also, reporting that for one individual, the remote mapping option means they will have their device reprogrammed for optimal hearing for the first time in over three years.

For more information about the Remote Cochlear Implant Program, please visit the links below:

- [The BC Adult Cochlear Implant Program](#)
- [Health Quality BC Award Winners - St. Paul's Remote Cochlear Implant Program](#)
- [Island Health News - Remote cochlear implant clinic a virtual godsend for BC patients](#)