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EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF COCHLEAR IMPLANT USERS a.s.b.l.

New European Consensus Statements on Paediatric Cochlear Implantation

What they mean for families — and how to use them to advocate for your child

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Why this matters to families

Two children with the same hearing loss can receive very different care — depending on where they live.

This document sets out to change that.

Across Europe today:

- Most countries have national guidelines — yet substantial, persistent differences in CI care remain.
- Access to timely diagnosis, surgery and rehabilitation still varies from country to country.
- These gaps affect equitable care even in high-income countries.

What are the consensus statements?

A shared European agreement on what good cochlear implant care for children should look like.

They describe the standard of CI care that should be available to every eligible child with severe to profound hearing loss — from screening through to lifelong support.

Clinics and families can use the document to inform local authorities and healthcare providers about the care a child should receive.

Who agreed them

- CI surgeons, audiologists and other specialists
- Patient & family representatives
- Advocacy groups: EURO-CIU, CIICA, ONICI, CICS
- CI user implanted in her first year of life

Agreed & presented at the ESPCI symposium, Hannover — June 2025

What good care looks like: the CI journey

The statements follow a child's whole journey — not just the operation.



Early detection

Newborn hearing screening & prompt referral

Assessment

A dedicated multidisciplinary team

Surgery

As early as safely possible, by experts

Activation & rehab

Fitting, listening & language support

Support for life

Ongoing care, upgrades & monitoring

Early detection & timely action



Early detection and early intervention greatly reduce delays in communication, spoken language, learning and social development.

The statements call on governments to provide newborn hearing screening, prompt referral to expert centres, and — where a CI is the right solution — implantation without delay.

> *“Cochlear implant is one of the most successful neural prostheses developed to date.”*
>
> — WHO, World Report on Hearing (2021)

A dedicated team — and families within it



A multidisciplinary team

- Children should be assessed by a dedicated, experienced CI team
- ENT, audiology, radiology, speech & language therapy and more
- Large enough to give sustainable, high-quality care
- Family & local professionals are part of the team too



A full assessment

- Hearing status, communication skills & general development
- Medical health, high-quality imaging & genetic testing
- Family support, educational support & wellbeing
- Parents should be able to meet other families with a CI child

Both ears, early — with realistic expectations



Bilateral implantation

All children with bilateral severe-to-profound hearing loss should be offered implants in both ears, preferably at the same time.



As early as safely possible

For congenital hearing loss, implanting early — balanced against anaesthetic risk — gives the best results. Surgery should be done by experienced surgeons.



Shared, realistic expectations

Good counselling about the CI journey, the family's role and likely outcomes helps set the best conditions for success — through shared decision-making.

Support for life — it doesn’t end at surgery

Cochlear implantation is a life-long intervention.

A right to ongoing support

Continuous access to working sound processors, spare parts, repairs and regular upgrades.

Support where the child lives

Rich spoken language and fully working technology at home, in day care and at school — with guidance for local staff.

Regular monitoring

Development and wellbeing checked regularly — in person or remotely — so progress continues and problems are caught early.

How you can use this to advocate

These are European statements — but they are a powerful tool for families everywhere.



Know what good care looks like

You now have a European reference describing high-quality CI care, stage by stage.



You are part of the team

Families are recognised as part of the CI team — ask to be involved in decisions about your child.



Use it to ask & to inform

Share the statements with your clinic and local authorities to show the European standard of care.



You are not alone

Connect with other families and advocacy groups — EURO-CIU, CIICA and your national association.

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Every child deserves the same chance to hear, learn and thrive.

The new European consensus statements give families a shared standard to work towards — together with clinicians, advocacy groups and each other.

Read the full statements

Int. Journal of Pediatric Otorhinolaryngology (2025) · ScienceDirect

Thank you.

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Scan to read the statements