



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

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Traveling With Your Cochlear Implant

The Cochlear Implant Team

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Making reservations

- ✓ **Hotels:** request a hearing assist room or deaf kit (visual alarm clock, door alarm, smoke detector, telephone). A handicap room is not always equipped for hearing impaired guests. Be specific about your need.
- ✓ **Planes:** make sure you notify the airline (usually this can be done when you make your reservation) that you are deaf/hearing impaired and will need assistance. Specify what assistance you will need.
- ✓ **Trains:** you can receive a disability discount on Amtrak.com when making reservations.
- ✓ **Cruise ships:** request a hearing kit, which includes a visual doorbell, telephone, alarm clock and smoke alarm. If you depend on sign language, you can request an interpreter for the main events on the cruise ship. Surge protectors are not allowed on some cruise ships, so request extension cords. Explain that you have medical equipment that must be charged.

****Services will vary based on each business, but ADA requires them to accommodate you. Do not wait until check-in – ask for these services when you make your reservations.**

Pack these in your carry-on bag

- ✓ Your cochlear implant ID card
- ✓ Back-up processor, cable/headpiece, cords, ear hooks
- ✓ Fully charged rechargeable and disposable batteries (w/disposable battery holder)
- ✓ Battery charger(s) (with international plugs if needed)
- ✓ Surge protector with multiple plugs/USB ports (with international plugs if needed)
- ✓ Remote Assistant/Remote Control
- ✓ Drying kit (and electrical cord if needed)
- ✓ Accessories
- ✓ Streaming devices and charging cords
- ✓ Waterproof kit
- ✓ Retention lines/clips/Snugfit
- ✓ Phone number to your manufacturer's customer care/service
- ✓ **Do not pack CI processors/equipment in checked baggage!!!**
- ✓ **Place your CI equipment in your carry-on bag in case your luggage goes somewhere you do not.**

Check-in for plane, train, cruise ship or hotel

- ✓ Inform the check-in clerk of your hearing impairment (if you have difficulty communicating with them or hearing announcements) and ask them to personally inform you of any gate changes, delays, or cancellations. Ask where you should sit or stand to be notified.
- ✓ **Sign up for text alerts on your cell phone!**
- ✓ Hotels should keep notation of handicapped customers in the event of an emergency/evacuation. Ask them if this is their policy.

Security in airports or cruise lines

- ✓ Inform TSA or counter agent of the best way to communicate with you if you have difficulty hearing in the line.
- ✓ You can walk through a metal detector or go through a body scanner.
- ✓ You may hear some distortion when walking through the metal detector or scanner, but it will not harm your processor (turn down volume if this bothers you). Distortion is temporary and will cease upon exiting the scanner.
- ✓ You can request a full body pat down instead of walking through a metal detector or body scanner if you choose.
- ✓ You can show your cochlear implant ID card to a TSA or counter agent –if they ask for proof of implantation.
- ✓ **DO NOT** lay your processor or hearing aid on the conveyor belt to be scanned. If you are not wearing it, pack it in a case, in your carry-on bag, turn off and disconnect the battery. It can be damaged or lost if laying directly on the conveyor belt.

Take-off, train rolling, cruising

- ✓ Your cochlear implant will not interfere with navigation or communication systems.
- ✓ Plane: you **DO NOT** need to turn off your processor and/or HA when the flight attendant asks you to “turn off all electronic devices” during take-off and landing. **Turn off** all wireless accessories/remotes for take-off and landing.
- ✓ On a plane or train, inform attendants of your hearing impairment and the need for personal instruction with any announcements, as necessary.
- ✓ Cruising: There will be a mandatory muster drill shortly after leaving port. If you are traveling alone, ask someone to communicate with you personally if you cannot hear the instructor.
- ✓ Sit back and enjoy the trip!

On the road

- ✓ Use strategic seating in buses, shows, theatres, restaurants.
- ✓ Turn on lights or sit in well-lit areas to assist with lipreading.
- ✓ Make sure the GPS volume is loud enough for you to hear if you are the navigator.
- ✓ Use your mini mic or Roger device for better hearing in car, plane, train, tours, restaurants, etc.
- ✓ Use your phone clip or direct streaming for hands-free access and clearer understanding on phone calls.
- ✓ Carry a back-up charged battery or disposable batteries (with holder) on your person when away from your lodging.
- ✓ Keep your CI equipment in a safe place – do not leave it in a hot car or put it in a checked baggage area. Your cruise ship room or hotel room will be climate controlled.
- ✓ Keep your cochlear implant ID card with you – in your wallet or passport holder.
- ✓ Wear your medical alert jewelry – **“No MRI. Cochlear Implant.”** Remind your traveling companions that should you take ill, you cannot have an MRI and they must contact your implant manufacturer for safety protocol if an MRI is necessary.

High impact activities, excursions, etc.

Ziplining? Skydiving? Snorkeling? Rock climbing? Snowmobiling? Roller Coasters?

- ✓ Always protect your head and equipment.
- ✓ Make sure the helmet fits comfortably over your processor(s)/headpieces.
- ✓ Consider wearing a swim hat for high impact water activities (it will muffle the sound with your Aqua/waterproof kit but will provide extra security).
- ✓ For added security, use retention devices.
- ✓ If you take off your processor(s), make sure you keep them in a dry, safe location, in case, not loose in your pockets or bag.

COVID-19 and travel

Plan ahead if you are concerned about communication due to masks and distancing. Download a voice to text app on your cell phone and use it for visual communication. Note on all reservations that you are hearing impaired and need assistance. Remind travel companions that you may need hearing assistance.

ENJOY YOUR ADVENTURES AND HAVE A GOOD TIME!