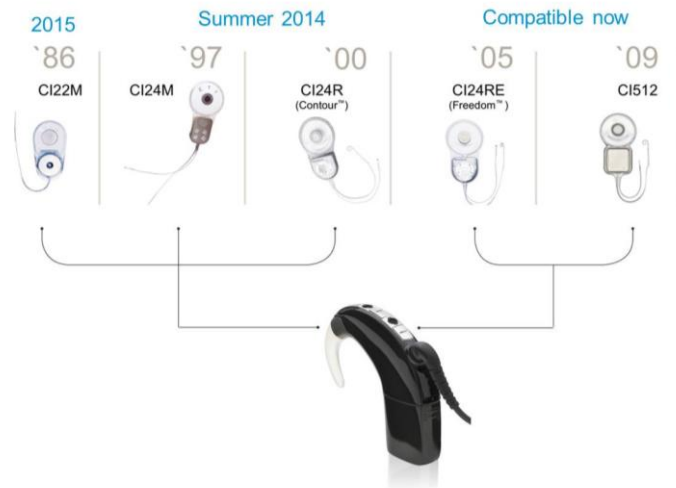


28 April 2014

Cochlear Europe is delighted to announce that by summer 2014 UK clinics will be able to upgrade patients who have Nucleus CI24M and CI24R implants to Nucleus 6 sound processors. This means that patients who received an implant from 1997 onwards will be able to have their processors upgraded to give them all the benefits of Nucleus 6. This leaves the question of what about Nucleus 22 (implant years 1986 to 1997) patients? When will they be able to access the benefits of Nucleus 6?

Nucleus compatibility



When will N6 be available for N22?

We are currently working to finalise N6 for N22 and by the end of 2014 expect to be able to submit technology to regulatory bodies for their approval. The physical availability of Nucleus 6 processors for N22 patients will then be dependent upon regulatory timelines which are beyond our control and (unfortunately) often unpredictable.

Why is it taking so long for N22 patients?

Our brand promise 'Hear now. And always' is extremely important to us and we put a lot of effort into honouring it. We remain committed to all Nucleus implant patients despite the extra complexity required to develop upgrades for older generation technology. To understand the challenge of developing Nucleus 6 for N22 patients, it may be helpful to think about getting a 1986 mobile phone to work with a Bluetooth accessory from 2014.

As Nucleus 22 is an older platform of implant, we have to develop special software and sound processor elements to ensure any new processor compatibility. The good news is that we are currently finalising the new coil and special firmware needed for the N6 for N22 which will allow regulatory submissions to go ahead by the end of 2014.

Why didn't you make Nucleus 5 available for N22 patients?

At the time of launch of Nucleus 5, the design intent and benefits of Nucleus 6 were well understood. Knowing the significant benefits of Nucleus 6 and being aware that there are sometimes limits on how often recipients are eligible for processor upgrades, we decided to make N6 available to N22 patients as soon as possible. This has been, and remains a priority for Cochlear.

Keeping you updated As we make progress with the technological and regulatory paths of this upgrade we will keep you updated on this Facebook page. Please ensure that you Like us to make sure you get the updates in a timely fashion.