Bilateral programming guidelines

Sequential programming

Use two programming interfaces: 2 Pods or 1 Pod & 1 PPS

1. Add 2nd implant to existing recipient in database.

2. Connect both devices to Custom Sound via programming interfaces.

3. Program Device 1:
   • Measure impedances on 1st device (make sure coil is off opposite ear).
   • If necessary, program as usual.

4. Program Device 2:
   • Instructions given with 1st device live.
   • Remove coil of 1st device to measure impedances.
   • You may then turn on 1st device during programming for communication, depending on the recipient’s individual needs.

5. Measure impedances.

6. Begin with recommended default strategy and rate: (ACE 900 Hz). Depending on individual’s needs, clinician preference may be to match stimulation rate.

7. Using streamlined programming: Measure T-levels on 5 channels.


9. Gradually increase volume to 9 while speaking; this should be loud but not uncomfortable.

10. Sweep at C-level for comfort and loudness balance (adults and older children).

11. Go to bilateral balance screen.

12. Turn on both devices using recommended volume and sensitivity settings (Freedom: volume = 6 and sensitivity = 12).
   • Manipulate T- and C-levels using bilateral shift to optimize loudness.
   • Confirm sound is balanced across ears — Sound sensation should be in the middle, not off to one side.

13. For adults and older children: Check each ear individually to make sure there is adequate loudness when listening monaurally. Volume may need to be increased above 6.

14. If individual is using the same sound processor on each ear, provide SmartSound™ options in the same map locations for each ear.

15. Counsel recipient on importance of consistent bilateral use.

Simultaneous programming

Use 2 Pods

1. Enter both implants in the same record in the database.

2. Connect both devices to Custom Sound via Programming Pods.

3. Program each implant following steps 5-10 above.

4. Go to bilateral balance screen & continue with steps 12 & 13 above.

5. Program SmartSound options as appropriate for recipient.

8. Counsel recipient on importance of consistent bilateral use.

9. Follow-up visits should include optimization of SmartSound and rate depending on performance.

*Whenever impedances or NRT are measured, ensure only one coil is placed on the head and the opposite processor is turned off to prevent RF interference.
Confirm that both implants are entered into the same record within Custom Sound

Both sound processors connected to Custom Sound

Go live on side #1 to instruct recipient, then stop stimulation to that processor

Instruct recipient on programming tasks

Measure Impedances*

Create MAP with recommended default rate (ACE 900 Hz)

Using streamlined programming, measure T-Levels on 5 electrodes

Set volume=6, sensitivity=12 and go live, increasing C-Levels globally

Gradually increase volume to 9 while speaking; speech should be loud but not uncomfortable

Sweep at C-Level to confirm comfort and balance

Go live with side #1 existing MAP, remap if necessary

Repeat above steps for opposite side

Enter Bilateral Balance Screen

Turn on both devices using Vol=6, Sens=12
- Manipulate T- and C-Levels using bilateral shift to optimize loudness
- Confirm sound is balanced across ears (sound sensation should be perceived in the middle of the head, not off to one side)

If individual uses SmartSound™ options, provide the same option in the same map locations for 2nd device

Program SmartSound options as appropriate for recipient

Counsel recipient to use both devices as much as possible

Follow up visits should include SmartSound and rate optimization for each ear depending on performance

*Whenever Impedances or NRT are measured, ensure only one coil is placed on the head and the opposite processor is turned off to prevent RF interference.