

About Cytomegalovirus (CMV)

What is CMV and Who is at Risk?

A common virus with serious implications

CMV is a common virus that spreads easily through contact with bodily fluids. It poses the highest risk to pregnant people and those with weakened immune systems.

Congenital CMV and Hearing Loss

The leading non-genetic cause of hearing loss in kids

CMV passed to a baby during pregnancy can cause lifelong conditions, including hearing loss. It's the leading non-genetic cause of sensorineural hearing loss in children.

Why CMV Awareness Matters

More common than many realise

Congenital CMV affects more babies than many better-known infections. Yet it remains under-recognised in pregnancy care despite its serious impact.





About this Fact Sheet

We're proud to share this fact sheet in support of **CMV Awareness Month, June 2025**.

It draws on expert insights shared during Deafness Forum Australia's Virtual National Deafness Sector Summit, *Protecting Young Ears: Navigating Disease and Medication Risks* held on 15 November 2024.

We encourage you to view the full Summit recording and associated resources at our [website](#).

You can visit our website by scanning the below QR code.



The Summit featured two presentations:

1. *Antibiotics & Hearing Loss in Children*, presented by Dr Duaa Gaafar, General Paediatrician & Clinical Pharmacologist from the Royal Children's Hospital | Murdoch Children's Research Institute
2. *Congenital Cytomegalovirus Opportunities for Prevention*, presented by A/Prof Hayley Smithers-Sheedy, MPH, PhD, Principal Research Fellow & Kath Swinburn, MPH, Research Officer & Ethics Governance Manager, Cerebral Palsy Alliance | The University of Sydney. They were joined by disability advocate and devoted mother, Pam Rogers.

This fact sheet has been created for awareness and educational purposes only. It is not a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. If you have concerns about your health or your child's health, please speak to a qualified healthcare provider.

The information reflects the expert perspectives and evidence available at the time of the Summit (November 2024). As research and clinical guidance continue to evolve, we recommend checking in with trusted sources and health professionals for the most current advice.

Other CMV Resources

Cerebral Palsy Alliance offers a range of CMV Resources accessible [here](#) or by scanning the following QR code.

