Suggested Process for the Management of SSNHL

**Patient identified with SSNHL**

**Assessment by ENT:**
- Examination
- Medical history
- Medication history
- Pure tone audiogram (hearing test)

**Baseline Investigations:**
Blood tests - checking for an underlying cause of SSNHL

- No underlying cause found or suspected
  - "Idiopathic" (cause unknown) sudden sensorineural hearing loss (ISSNHL)

- Baseline Investigations:
  - Imaging: MRI scan
    - Note: If MRI scan is not possible (e.g., due to a health condition) a CT scan or Auditory Brainstem Response (ABR) test should be considered

- Underlying cause found
  - Treat underlying cause

- Possible underlying cause identified
  - Refer for neuro-otology assessment

- Oral Steroid treatment administered
  - Review in 10-14 days with pure tone audiogram (hearing test)
  - Improvement or partial improvement in hearing

- Patient unable to take steroids orally
  - Consider intratympanic (IT) steroid therapy (injection of steroid into middle ear)
  - No improvement in hearing
  - Underlying cause found
    - Treat underlying cause
  - Possible underlying cause identified
    - Refer for neuro-otology assessment
  - No improvement in hearing or IT therapy declined by patient
    - Explore amplification options e.g. hearing aids/implants, if appropriate