



Department of Health and Human Services
Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention
Children with Special Health Needs
Maine Newborn Hearing Program
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Maine Newborn Hearing Screening Protocols

Update 2019

Screening

- **Both ears must be screened every time a screening is performed**
The screening needs to be completed on both ears at the SAME time in order for the results to be valid. The most recent screening is the result that is used to determine if a child needs to have follow-up. If more than one screening is done on a baby, screening times must be provided to MNHP with your data. If a baby does not have a “pass/pass” result during the most recent screening, they have not passed.
- Prior to screening, the person performing the hearing screen should obtain all available information about the baby’s risk factors for late onset hearing loss. This information must be entered in the hearing screen record prior to performing a hearing screen (when a laptop screener is used) Refer to the Risk Indicator sheet for further information.
- It is mandated that every baby’s medical record is checked prior to discharge to ensure that a hearing screening was done. If a child has not been screened and it cannot be done prior to discharge, you must schedule a follow-up appointment and notify the MNHP about the follow-up appointment within two business days.
- If a parent refuses a hearing screen for their baby, you must submit a signed refusal form to the MNHP. This needs to be submitted to the MNHP within two business days.
- For any baby who does not pass their hearing screen prior to discharge, the screening facility is **MANDATED** by State Law to make the appointment for follow-up and fax both the Maine Newborn Hearing Program and the baby’s primary care provider using the Hearing Screening Referral Form.
 - Follow-up screening at your facility is acceptable if done by 1 month of age (and preferred if you have only done one screening prior to discharge). However, if the family does not return for follow-up screening, the facility is responsible for contacting the family for follow-up care and is responsible for notifying the Maine Newborn Hearing Program and the baby’s primary care provider.
 - Babies who do not pass hearing screen need to have a complete audiologic diagnostic evaluation. This can only be done at a Category A audiology facility. (refer to the Audiology Facility listing document)
 - If parents refuse to schedule a follow-up screening and/or a follow-up diagnostic audiological evaluation, the screening facility must complete the fax form and note the refusal and fax a copy of this form to both the Maine Newborn Hearing Program and the baby’s primary care provider.
- Do not perform excessive screens on a baby. Screening is NOT to be done more than twice prior to discharge. If the baby does not pass the initial hearing screen, do NOT immediately repeat the screen. Wait at least 6 hours before doing a second screen.

Data Entry

Data mandated to be reported to MNHP includes the identification of the person who performed the hearing screen. Data entry may not use such identifiers as 'anonymous' or "administrator." Please check your hearing screeners to ensure the User ID field is not set to one of these terms.

Data entry errors can make it difficult to locate the baby's hearing records and to link it to their birth certificate, which is necessary for our reporting requirements. Please give careful attention to the data that is entered for the screening.

- If you are performing a screening and make an error in the electronic data (for example, wrong medical record number is input). Please notify the Maine Newborn Hearing Program via phone or fax. Any error corrections that are noted in the medical record do not get changed in the electronic data sent to MNHP.
- If you are doing a 'test' screening on the equipment, please use the name "Test" and do not create fake Medical Record Numbers, etc as this makes it difficult to verify the record.

The most common data entry errors include:

- Incorrect date of birth. The date of birth needs to be entered with careful attention to the year when it is a new year.
- Incorrect spelling of the baby's and/or mother's names
- Incorrect entry of the birth facility when it is different than the screening facility
- Incorrect entry of the Medical Record Number

Broken Screeners/Upgrades

When your facility has a broken screener or you are trading in your screener please take these steps:

- Call NATUS for repair service (888-496-2887)
- Notify MNHP (207-287-8427).
- Before sending your screener for repair, please back-up all of your data, verify with Nebulogic –Maine Newborn Screening Portal that the data has been safely transferred to them, and then delete the data from the screener. This ensures that we have the data in the State database and that confidential information is not compromised. (Birthing facilities using a portable screener and the manual entry to Nebulogic –Maine Newborn Screening Portal do not have data on the portable to back-up and should disregard this step)

Sending Data

- Birthing facilities need to send data every week
- If there are no births, please let Nebulogic – Maine Newborn Screening Portal and the MNHP Coordinator know this information as well.
- If you anticipate problems with reporting within these timeframes, due to vacations, holidays, etc. please report this information to Nebulogic – Maine Newborn Screening Portal and the MNHP Coordinator.
- When data is sent, please overlap the data dates to include the week before as well. This helps with any potential data quality issues and does not mean that babies will be reported more than once. (Nebulogic – Maine Newborn Screening Portal automatically checks for duplicates, so sending the same data will not cause any problems. Providing this overlap allows us to catch some data that might otherwise have been lost.)

Hearing Screening Training

The National Center for Hearing Assessment and Management (NCHAM) is pleased to offer the updated Interactive Newborn Hearing Screening Curriculum (NHSTC) as an online educational module. The goal of this comprehensive course is to standardize training for all screeners and stakeholders involved in newborn hearing screening and follow-up. It is web based, so screeners can learn at their own pace. In addition, there are many resources and tools embedded in the curriculum, in addition, those who register and complete the course will receive a Certificate of Completion from NCHAM.

MNHP strongly recommends that all staff performing hearing screens complete this training.

Please register for the NHSTC course at the following URL:

www.infanthearing.org/nhstc/index.html

Please let us know if you have any questions or difficulties enrolling.