

JUNE 2009

# SNOHOMISH COUNTY CHILD HEALTH NOTES

Promoting early identification and partnerships between families, primary health care providers & the community.

Distributed by: The Infant Toddler Early Intervention Program (ITEIP) and the Children with Special Health Care Needs Program (CSHCN)  
Contributors: Washington State Department of Health and UW – Center on Human Development & Disability



"I'm glad we discovered her hearing loss so early. I'm concerned about her language developing, and the earlier she can develop sounds, the better."

--Parent of a child identified by newborn hearing screening with a sensorineural hearing loss.

## EARLY HEARING-LOSS DETECTION, DIAGNOSIS AND INTERVENTION (EHDDI)

The goals of the Washington State Dept. of Health EHDDI Program are that:

- 1) **Every infant born in Washington will receive hearing screening prior to hospital discharge or by one month of age**
- 2) **Every infant referred from newborn hearing screening will receive a diagnostic audiologic evaluation by 3 months of age**
- 3) **Every infant identified with hearing loss will be enrolled in early intervention by 6 months of age.**

The guidelines of the EHDDI program in Washington state are in line with clinical practices nationally. The recommendation for universal newborn hearing screening is supported by the NIH Consensus conference (1993) and the American Academy of Pediatrics Position Statement on Infant Hearing (2000).

### CURRENT STATUS IN WASHINGTON STATE:

Nearly all birthing hospitals in Washington state have universal newborn hearing screening programs, making newborn hearing screening the standard of care.

In 2005, 94% of all newborns in WA were screened for hearing loss; this is projected to rise. While most infants pass the screening, those who do not pass need further testing.

Each year in Washington State approximately 233 babies are born with hearing loss.

### DID YOU KNOW?

- Hearing loss affects 3 in 1000 babies. It is one of the most frequently occurring birth defects, more common than PKU or congenital adrenal hyperplasia, for example.
- 95% of infants with hearing loss are born to parents with **normal** hearing.
- Over 50% of infants with hearing loss have *no known risk factors* for hearing loss.
- The national average age for identifying hearing loss in children not screened at birth is *18-24 mos.*

### WHAT CAN YOU DO IN YOUR OFFICE PRACTICE?

- 1) Check each infant's hospital record for results of a newborn hearing screening. If an infant was **born at a birthing center, at home or at a hospital that does not do screening, refer the child to a pediatric audiologist for newborn hearing screening before 1 month of age.**
- 2) **If the infant did not pass the newborn hearing screening, refer the infant to a pediatric audiologist. This is the most important step for PCP's.** Many screening programs do not offer follow-up testing, but do inform the parents of the screening outcome and provide a list of audiologists as needed. **It is the PCP's responsibility to assure the family obtains follow-up testing.**
- 3) Once a child is diagnosed with a hearing loss, the audiologist will recommend amplification and early intervention. The PCP should monitor the process to **ensure that both amplification and early intervention are initiated by 6 months of age.**

### What kind of hearing testing is appropriate for infants and young children?

- For infants under 6 months of age, physiological testing is appropriate. Either otoacoustic emissions (OAEs) or brainstem auditory evoked responses (BAER, ABR) are appropriate screening tools. Both OAE and frequency-specific BAER testing are necessary to diagnose a hearing loss.
- For infants and children older than 6 months of age, behavioral testing is appropriate for screening and diagnosing hearing loss. OAE and BAER testing may be needed if behavioral testing is not successful.

## SNOHOMISH COUNTY RESOURCES FOR DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING AND ASSESSMENT

- **For children under age three:** Contact: Infant Toddler Early Intervention Program 425-388-7402  
Children with Special Health Care Needs 425-339-8652
- **For children age three and older:** Contact: Local school district

District:	Phone:	District:	Phone:	District:	Phone:
Arlington	360-618-6215	Darrington	360-436-1323	Edmonds	425-431-7208
Everett	425-385-5254	Granite Falls	360-691-7718	Index	360-793-1330
Lake Stevens	425-335-1500	Lakewood	360-652-4501	Marysville	360-653-0825
Monroe	360-804-3267	Mukilteo	425-356-1250	Northshore	425-408-5594
Snohomish	360-563-7292	Stanwood	360-629-1250	Sultan	360-793-9801

### EHDDI INFORMATION AND RESOURCES:

<b>Local:</b>	Seattle Children's Hospital Audiology Clinic Seattle Children's Hospital Audiology Clinic - Bellevue University of Washington Pediatric Audiology Clinic Virginia Mason Medical Center Audiology Clinic Evergreen Speech & Hearing Clinic Bellevue Kirkland Seattle Hearing & Balance Lab	206-987-5173; Fax: 206-987-3121 425-454-4644; Fax: 425-451-0214 206-598-9347; Fax: 206-598-7815 206-223-8802; Fax: 206-223-2388  425-454-1883; Fax: 425-454-2036 425-899-5050; Fax: 425-899-5054 206-320-5687; Fax: 206-320-8145
<b>Regional:</b>	EHDDI Program Washington State Department of Health Children's Hospital and Regional Medical Center Wendy Harrison, MS, CCC-A	206-418-5613 <a href="mailto:ehddi2@doh.wa.gov">ehddi2@doh.wa.gov</a> 206-987-2457, 1-888-365-7767 <a href="mailto:wendy.harrison@seattlechildrens.org">wendy.harrison@seattlechildrens.org</a>
<b>Internet:</b>	DOH Website on EHDDI  DOH Protocol for Newborn Hearing Screening  DOH Pediatric Audiology Services Guide,  DOH Best Practice Guidelines in Early Intervention for Children with Hearing Loss  Children's Hospital Newborn Hearing Screening Website  WA State Medical Home Website – Hearing Information	<a href="http://www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/mch/Genetics/ehddi/default.htm">www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/mch/Genetics/ehddi/default.htm</a>  <a href="http://www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/mch/Genetics/Images/newborn_protocol.pdf">www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/mch/Genetics/Images/newborn_protocol.pdf</a>  <a href="http://www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/mch/Genetics/ehddi/default.htm">www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/mch/Genetics/ehddi/default.htm</a>  <a href="http://www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/mch/Genetics/Images/Best_Practices.pdf">www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/mch/Genetics/Images/Best_Practices.pdf</a>  <a href="http://www.newborn-hearing-screening.org">www.newborn-hearing-screening.org</a>  <a href="http://www.medicalhome.org/health/hearing.cfm">www.medicalhome.org/health/hearing.cfm</a>

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