



Introducing the Newborn Hearing Screening Training Curriculum

What is it?

The newborn Hearing Screening Training Curriculum (NHSTC) is a training tool in DVD format, developed for hospital based screeners. It is meant to be used as a competency based, standardized training, geared for the inexperienced screener. It covers all of the critical information important for conducting quality and efficient newborn hearing screening.

How do we get it?

Contact the Nevada EHDI Program to obtain a disc of the training curriculum. Use it independently or as part of a live presentation with one of our Audiology Consultants.

What does it consist of?

There are 8 sections or modules, covering the following aspects of the newborn hearing screening process:

- Section 1-Introduction to Newborn Hearing Screening
- Section 2-Getting Ready to Screen
- Section 3-Screening with Otoacoustic Emissions (OAEs)
- Section 4-Screening with Automated Auditory Brainstem Response (A-ABR),
- Section 5-Completing the Screening Process
- Section 6-Communicating with Parents and the Medical Providers
- Section 7-Screening Babies with Risk Indicators
- Section 8-Outpatient Screening/Re-screening
- Resource Disc

In its entirety, the curriculum will take approximately 70 minutes to complete. Each section lasts between 5 and 13 minutes and contains audio, video and pictures to accommodate a variety of learning styles. At the end of each section there is a test, which can be used to fulfill hospital competency requirements.

In addition, there is a resource disc which has a lot of information that can be useful for both the screener and the program manager.

For screeners:

- scripts for screeners to use when communicating with parents in both English and Spanish (these should be printed and practiced with a partner)
- glossary with definitions
- links to related websites
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) that parent's may ask

For program managers:

- competency check lists for "hands-on screening" techniques
- test questions, answers and a test answer form
- JCIH 2007 Position Statement and program checklist



What it does *NOT* consist of?

Although NHSTC will provide the screener with what they need to learn about the screening process, it will not mean that a screener can competently operate neither the equipment nor an infant independently. Prior to screening babies, it is always recommended that a new screener is able to demonstrate the important "hands-on" skills needed for efficient screening. This can be accomplished under the supervision of the program manager or a designated experienced screener. In the resource section, competency check lists are available to validate and document these skills.

How should it be used?

The first 6 sections are considered part of the core or required curriculum, however, if the hospital is not screening with OAEs, Section 3 can be skipped, and if the hospital is not screening with automated ABR, Section 4 can be skipped. If both OAE and automated ABR are being used to screen babies, the screener should watch both sections. Sections 7-Screening Babies with Risk Indicators and Section 8-Outpatient Screening/Re-screening are considered optional depending on whether the hospital has high-risk infants or a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) and an outpatient screening program. In addition, each section contains a lot of information; therefore, for optimal learning, it is recommended that the modules be watched in two or more separate sessions, not all at one time.

About

- The NHSTC is a collaborative project between *the National Center for Hearing Assessment and Management (NCHAM)* and *the EAR Foundation of Arizona (EFAZ)*
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- These materials do not intend to endorse any particular products or hearing screening systems.