

## The Role of the Physician or Audiologist

- Make sure you know the results of the newborn hearing screen.
- Discuss the results with the family.
- Encourage timely follow-up hearing testing.
- Know which audiologists in your area have the equipment and experience needed for the complete diagnostic evaluation of an infant's hearing.
- Report the results of all follow-up hearing testing to the EHDI Program so that the infant's hearing status and progress through the EHDI system can be tracked.
- Refer infants and toddlers with confirmed hearing loss to an early intervention program and to an otologist for a complete medical evaluation.
- Provide information on the full range of intervention options. It is the family's right to choose the option best for them.
- Be on the look out for late-onset hearing loss. Monitor children's auditory, speech, and language development.
- Finally, be sure to contact the Nevada EHDI Program if you have any questions, whether general or regarding a specific infant.



DIVISION OF PUBLIC AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH  
Bureau of Child, Family, and Community Wellness  
**EARLY HEARING DETECTION AND INTERVENTION**

### PROGRAM

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**STATE OF NEVADA**

Department of Health and Human Services  
DIVISION OF PUBLIC AND BEHAVIORAL  
HEALTH

## Understanding the Nevada Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Program:



## A Guide for Physicians and Audiologists

# Nevada Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Program



Every day, 33 babies are born in the United States with permanent hearing loss. Nearly two of every 1,000 newborns screened are deaf or hard of hearing, making hearing loss one of the most frequently occurring congenital condition. About half of the newborns with hearing loss have no known signs or risk factors. Nationally, the average age of identification of hearing loss has been reduced from 2.5 years to less than six months of age since implementation of universal newborn hearing screening. Recent studies have shown that infants who are identified with hearing loss before six months of age, and who receive appropriate intervention demonstrate significantly better receptive and expressive language skills than children whose hearing loss is identified later.

The goal of state EHDI programs is to ensure that all infants and toddlers with hearing loss are identified as early as possible and provided with timely and appropriate audiological, medical, and educational intervention. EHDI has become a national public health initiative endorsed by such groups as the AAP, HRSA, CDC, and the National Institutes of Health. Healthy People 2010 also includes EHDI objectives.



## Newborn Hearing Screening Follow-up Guidelines

**By 1 Month of Age:**

### Hearing Screening

- Initial Screen Prior to Hospital Discharge
- If Screen not Passed in One or Both Ears, Out-Patient Rescreen at Hospital
- Always Rescreen Both Ears
- If Initially Screened with AABR, Rescreen with AABR
- If Initially Screened with OAE, Rescreen with OAE or AABR
- Report Results to State EHDI Program

**By 3 Months of Age:**

### Diagnostic Hearing Evaluation

Infant Test Battery Should Include:

- Click Auditory Brainstem Response (ABR)
- Frequency Specific Tone Burst ABR
- Bone Conduction ABR, if needed
- High Frequency Tympanometry
- Otoacoustic Emissions (OAE), optional
- Report Results to State EHDI Program

**By 6 Months of Age:**

### Early Intervention

- ENT Referral for Medical Evaluation
- Hearing Aid Consultation with Pediatric Audiologist
- Enrollment in Early Intervention (EI) Program
- Report EI Enrollment to State EHDI Program

## EHDI Program Activities

- Training and support to local hospitals to help them provide accurate and efficient hearing screens for every newborn.
- Tracking and Surveillance to ensure that all infants are screened for hearing loss and receive timely and appropriate follow-up testing and early intervention services.
- Audiological consultation and training to families, physicians, audiologists and community agencies regarding hearing and its assessment, hearing loss, and educational planning.
- Identification of local resources to meet the needs of individual infants with potential or confirmed hearing loss.
- Promoting public awareness regarding the EHDI Program, hearing loss, and communication development.
- Developing and distributing culturally sensitive parent education materials.
- Promoting non-biased parent-to-parent support services.
- Monitoring statewide performance of the national EHDI goals and timeframes.