

64CSR24

**Title 64
Legislative Rules
Division of Health**

**Series 24
Newborn Hearing Screening**

§16-24-1. General.

1.1. Scope. – This rule establishes a reasonable fee schedule, a cost-effective screening protocol, and reporting and referral requirements for the screening of newborn infants for hearing impairments, and becomes effective on July 1, 2001. This rule should be read in conjunction with W.Va. Code §16-22A-1 et seq. The W.Va. Code is available in public libraries and on the Legislature's webpage, <http://www.legis.state.wv.us/>.

1.2. Authority. – WV Code §16-22A-2.

1.3. Filing Date. –

1.4. Effective Date. –

§16-24-2. Application and Enforcement.

2.1. Application. – This rule applies to all infants born in West Virginia and to the health care providers caring for infants at birth.

2.2. Enforcement. – This rule is enforced by the director of the division of health.

§16-24-3. Definitions.

3.1. ABR (auditory brainstem response). - Newborn hearing screening equipment that provides information about the auditory pathway up to the brainstem.

3.2. Advisory Committee. – The West Virginia Hearing Impairment Testing Advisory Committee created in W.Va. Code §16-22A-4 to advise the director regarding the protocol, validity, monitoring and cost of newborn hearing screening procedures required under W.Va. Code §16-22A-1 et seq.

3.3. Birth Score Developmental Risk Screen - medical assessment conducted immediately after birth to identify newborns at greatest risk for poor health or infant mortality within the first year of life.

3.4. Director. – The director of the division of health or his or her lawful designee.

3.5. Division. - The division of health.

3.6. DRG (Diagnostic Related Group). - The payment code incorporating a group of inpatient hospital charges or costs.

3.7. Health Care Facility - any licensed medical facility that offers birthing services.

3.8. Health Care Provider. – A physician or licensed midwife present during or immediately after delivery.

3.9. Primary Care Provider - The physician, physician's assistant, nurse, nurse practitioner or other licensed medical professional responsible for the infant's health services after discharge from the health care facility.

3.7. OAE (otoacoustic emissions test). - A screen that provides data about hearing distortion to the cochlea.

§16-24-4. When Screening is Required.

4.1. W.Va. Code §16-22A-1 et seq. requires that all infants born in a licensed health care facility be screened for hearing impairments except when there is no third-party payor for the screening and the parents refuse to have the screening performed, as in W.Va. Code §16-22A-3(c).

4.2. When the birth takes place in a licensed health care facility and there is a third-party payor, the health care provider present at the birth shall immediately perform or cause to be performed screening for hearing impairments.

4.3. When an infant is born in a nonlicensed facility, including a home, the health care provider shall inform the parents of the need to obtain the screening within the first month of the infant's life. It shall be the charge of the primary care provider caring for the infant post delivery to refer the infant for testing with a licensed ENT/audiologist.

§16-24-5. Screening Protocol.

5.1. The health care provider shall perform, or cause to be performed, newborn hearing screening in both ears shortly after birth, using either the ABR and/or OAE screening equipment, following the equipment manufacturer's guidelines.

5.2. The screening shall be performed by trained personnel, according to the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) standards.

5.3. The director, with concurrence of the advisory committee, may update or modify these screening procedures required according to protocol, technology and current national standard.

5.4. If the health care provider is unable to screen the infant before discharge, the primary care provider shall refer the infant for a non-hospital-administered hearing screening test. The responsibility for the referral rests with the primary care provider.

5.5. If the infant does not pass the initial screening test, the health care provider shall perform a second screening test prior to hospital discharge.

§16-24-6. Screening Fee Schedule.

6.1. All licensed health care facilities shall charge a fee for the initial newborn hearing screening that will be applied to all payors at the rate, not to exceed the rate, established by the Medicaid DRG process.

6.2. For infants born in a nonlicensed health care facility, including a home, pursuant to subsection 4.3., a health care provider will charge a fee for an outpatient newborn hearing screen at the rate, nor to exceed the rate, established by the Medicaid DRG process.

6.3. The fee for newborn hearing screening may be reviewed annually.

§16-24-7. Screening Reporting and Referral.

7.1. The health care provider shall record the hearing screening results in the infant's medical record and on the Birth Score Developmental Risk Screen.

7.2. The health care provider shall report all screening results to the parents, legal guardian, and primary care provider prior to discharge.

7.3. When an infant is born in a non-licensed facility, including a home, see subsection 4.3.

7.4. All birthing facilities shall be responsible for reporting screening results. Hard copy data on in-patient screening results shall be sent to the Birth Score Office, West Virginia University Department of Pediatrics, P.O. Box 9214, Morgantown, WV 26506-9214.

7.5. If an infant fails the initial and second screening test in one or both ears, the health care provider shall inform the parents, legal guardian, and primary care provider.

7.6. The primary care provider shall arrange for diagnostic testing with the local audiological testing facility.

§16-24-8. Confidentiality.

8.1. Any person who obtains confidential information while implementing W.Va. Code §16-22A-1 et seq. may disclose it only to reporting sources, persons demonstrating a need that is essential to health related research or care of the infant, or as required by law.

8.2. Any person who obtains confidential information while implementing W.Va. Code §16-22A-1 et seq. shall provide a written statement of confidentiality stating that he or she fully understands the privacy of the information and will maintain it.

§16-24-9. Penalties.

9.1. Any person who violates the provisions of W.Va. Code §16-22A-1 et seq. or this rule is subject to the penalties provided in W.Va. Code §16-1-18.