New Hampshire

Universal Newborn Hearing Screening Program

Why is hearing screening important?
- In New Hampshire, about 30 to 40 babies are born every year with hearing loss.
- Hearing loss is the most common disability present at birth.
- Hearing loss makes it harder for babies to learn to speak and to understand language.
- Language is the key to all learning and begins at birth.

Where can babies be screened?
- Many hospitals in the state offer hearing screening for newborns. Families should talk with their baby’s health care provider to make arrangements for a hearing screening.

What services does the Universal Newborn Hearing Screening Program offer?
- The program offers training and support to local hospitals to help them provide hearing screening for every New Hampshire newborn.
- The program tracks the number of infants being screened and how many are hearing impaired.

Which babies need to have their hearing checked?
- All babies should have their hearing checked shortly after birth.
- All babies referred by hearing screening programs should have completed diagnostic (follow-up) testing by 3 months of age.
- All babies with a confirmed hearing loss should receive services from qualified health care and education professionals before 6 months of age.
- Hearing screening should be done any time there is a concern about a child’s hearing.

How is a baby’s hearing checked?
- Special equipment is needed to detect hearing loss in babies. Screening should be offered as soon as possible after birth.
- It’s quick, easy, and does not hurt the baby.

Where can I get more information?
- To learn more about the Universal Newborn Hearing Screening Program, call:
  
  Bureau of Maternal and Child Health  
  800-852-3345 ext. 1037  
  603-271-1037  

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
HRSA  
Health Resources and Services Administration  
Maternal and Child Health Bureau  

New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services  
Office of Community and Public Health  
6 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH  03301