

**INFANT DIAGNOSTIC HEARING TESTING**  
**CONNECTICUT EARLY HEARING DETECTION AND INTERVENTION ADVISORY BOARD**  
**BEST PRACTICE RECOMMENDATIONS**

Early infant hearing detection and intervention are keys to the development of speech and language. Universal newborn hearing screening has been mandated in Connecticut since July 2000. Approximately 1-2% of all infants screened will be referred for diagnostic hearing testing. The initial diagnostic hearing evaluation should be scheduled promptly upon discharge, and be conducted by the time the child is two months of age.

The pediatric audiologist to whom the child is referred must decide on the **battery of tests** that is appropriate for each child based on: screening results, the medical history of the child, risk factors if present, and the type, number, and timing of screenings carried out prior to the referral.

The Connecticut Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Advisory Board strongly recommends that any audiologist accepting infants for initial diagnostic audiological evaluations should have the ability to complete the following procedures (\*):

**Auditory Brainstem Response [ABR (a.k.a BAERS, BAER)]:**

- Threshold measurement with frequency specific tone bursts
- Threshold measurement with bone conduction ABR
- Sedation in a medical facility where the child can be appropriately monitored

**Immittance Testing:**

- Tympanometry with high frequency probe tone **greater than 1000 Hz**
- Acoustic reflex testing

**Otoacoustic Emissions (OAE):**

- Transient evoked or distortion product

**Behavioral Audiometry:**

- May be useful in addition to the above

(\*) An otological evaluation must be included as part of the diagnostic process, although it may occur at a different facility and time.

The audiologist must report the results of the initial diagnostic audiological evaluation to the referring physician and to the Connecticut Department of Public Health, in the requested format. For reporting instructions, please call (860) 509-8057.

The audiologist must refer any child with a hearing loss to the CT Birth to Three System at the time of diagnosis. The Birth to Three System provides a range of services including ongoing audiological testing, acquisition of assistive technology, family training and communication intervention. For referrals, more information, or to receive the *Service Guidelines for Children Who are Hard of Hearing or Deaf*, contact CT Birth to Three at 1-800-505-7000 or visit their website: <http://www.birth23.org/>.