

Early Hearing Detection and Intervention [EHD] Frequently Asked Question [FAQ] Guide for Pediatricians

The EHD FAQ Guide, developed by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) EHD program, is an introductory resource for pediatricians serving families with children who are deaf or hard of hearing (D/HH). This resource provides important resources about the EHD program in states, discusses how best to partner with families, and offers tips for billing and coding.



How Can I Find Resources in My State?

EHD PROGRAM

Every state and territory in the United States has an EHD program. You can learn more about the EHD System at the [National Technical Resource Center website](#). EHD program staff are responsible for creating, operating, and continuously improving a system of services that assures that:

- Every infant born receives a hearing screening by 1 month of age, those who do not pass the hearing screen receive a diagnostic evaluation before 3 months of age, and those identified with permanent hearing loss are provided with timely and appropriate intervention services before 6 months of age (EHD 1-3-6 guidelines).
- Every family of an infant with hearing loss receives culturally competent family support as desired.
- All newborns identified with hearing loss have a medical home.
- Effective newborn hearing screening tracking and data management systems are linked with other relevant public health information systems.
- Children who are D/HH receive early identification and appropriate early intervention services to achieve optimal language, cognition, and socioemotional outcomes.

EHD STATE COORDINATOR

Every state has at least 1 EHD Coordinator. The EHD Coordinator is the point of contact for the EHD system in each state. The EHD Coordinator is knowledgeable about each of the components of EHD and how they work in your state including:

- Resources for newborn and early childhood hearing screening and diagnosis.
 - Where hearing screening is available in each community.
 - How to access local hearing screening resources.
 - How to identify local audiologists specializing in pediatric diagnosis, amplification, or cochlear implants.
- Early intervention services available in your state and how to access those services or make referrals.
- Parent support to connect families with organizations such as, [Hands & Voices](#), [Parent to Parent USA](#), and [Family Voices](#).
- Follow-up to ensure that families move from hearing screening to diagnosis and early intervention.

EHDI STATE COORDINATOR *cont.*

Your EHDI state coordinator will also be your point of contact for [hearing loss data](#) and best practices around hearing screening, diagnosis, and early intervention. Data on each stage of hearing screening, diagnosis and intervention is collected both at the state and national level through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The EHDI Coordinator may also have data by community or hearing screening program. EHDI outreach, education and advocacy should be aligned with a state plan through the EHDI Coordinator. Coordination will ensure that a common message is reinforced as well as available resources are leveraged for maximum effectiveness. For more information on how to contact your EHDI state coordinator, please visit [NCHAM: State Contacts for Early Hearing Detection & Intervention \(infanthearing.org\)](#).

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) provide funding for the EHDI program. EHDI coordinators typically serve as program leads. Copies of most state grants can also be found at [NCHAM: State Grants \(infanthearing.org\)](#).
- **State Commissions for D/HH**
While activities to support D/HH vary from state to state, many states have an agency such as a commission or state office for the D/HH, which oftentimes focus on advocacy efforts, information gathering and dissemination, referral services, state-wide planning, interpreting services, job placement and development. There are approximately 38 state agencies for the D/HH. Please visit [The National Association of State Agencies of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing](#) to download the [roster of all USA state agencies](#).

What is My Role in the Medical Home of Children Who Are D/HH?

All children identified as D/HH should have a medical home. The medical home coordinates and monitors assessment and support services aimed at supporting not only the child's D/HH diagnosis, but overall development. As part of the medical home, pediatricians are an integral part of care coordination for families with children who are D/HH. Connect with the AAP EHDI program for technical assistance on providing care for families with children who are D/HH.

- **EHDI CHAPTER CHAMPION PROGRAM**
The AAP EHDI program provides technical assistance, training, and education to support medical home implementation for families with children who are D/HH. The Chapter Champion program, an important component of the AAP EHDI program, partners closely with the AAP state chapters and the state EHDI program, to enhance pediatricians' knowledge of the EHDI 1-3-6 guidelines.
 - Get connected with the other 55 Chapter Champions by contacting Beth Mlodoch at aapehdi@aap.org.

Using Family-Centered Partnership with Families of Children Who are D/HH

Family-centered partnership is when the pediatrician provides care through a trusting, collaborative, working partnership with families, respecting their diversity, and recognizing they are the constant in a child's life. This page features "just in time" resources to support you in partnering with families who have children who are D/HH.

- [The Hands & Voices Family Leadership in Language & Learning Cooperative](#)
- [American Society for Deaf Children](#)
- [Bright Futures Promoting EHDI Implementation Tip Sheet](#)

How Can I Properly Code Hearing-Related Services?

While coding for hearing screening is relatively straightforward, ensuring that appropriate payment is received for such services is a more complicated. The AAP is committed to supporting members, providers, and coders with resources and tools designed to pay providers for services delivered, ultimately improving the quality of care for children.

RESOURCES

- [AAP Hearing Screening Coding Fact Sheet](#)
- [Coding at the AAP](#)

For technical assistance requests, please contact aapehdi@aap.org and for more information on the AAP EHDI program, visit aap.org/ehdi.

The AAP EHDI Program has 3 goals:

1. Every child receives appropriate and timely hearing screening, and when indicated, diagnostic evaluation following the EHDI guidelines.
2. Every child who is found to be deaf or hard of hearing receives comprehensive and coordinated care within the medical home model that maximizes medical, development, and language outcomes.
3. Pediatricians and health care teams caring for D/HH children within the medical home have access to up-to-date resources, guidelines, and strategies beginning from hearing screening and continuing through identification and intervention.



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