

SCREENING OF HEARING OF NEWBORN CHILDREN

NRS 442.500 Definitions. As used in [NRS 442.500](#) to [442.590](#), inclusive, unless the context otherwise requires, the words and terms defined in [NRS 442.510](#), [442.520](#) and [442.530](#) have the meanings ascribed to them in those sections.

(Added to NRS by [2001, 2460](#))

NRS 442.510 “Hearing screening” defined. “Hearing screening” means a test or battery of tests administered to determine the need for an in-depth hearing diagnostic evaluation.

(Added to NRS by [2001, 2460](#))

NRS 442.520 “Hospital” defined. “Hospital” has the meaning ascribed to it in [NRS 449.012](#).

(Added to NRS by [2001, 2460](#))

NRS 442.530 “Provider of hearing screenings” defined. “Provider of hearing screenings” means a health care provider who, within the scope of his or her license or certificate, provides for hearing screenings of newborn children in accordance with [NRS 442.500](#) to [442.590](#), inclusive. The term includes a licensed audiologist, a licensed physician or an appropriately supervised person who has documentation that demonstrates to the State Board of Health that he or she has completed training specifically for conducting hearing screenings of newborn children.

(Added to NRS by [2001, 2460](#))

NRS 442.540 Certain medical facilities prohibited from discharging newborn child born in facility until child has undergone or been referred for hearing screening; exception; regulations.

1. Except as otherwise provided in this section and [NRS 442.560](#), a licensed hospital in this state that provides services for maternity care and the care of newborn children and a licensed freestanding birthing center in this state shall not discharge a newborn child who was born in the facility until the newborn child has undergone a hearing screening for the detection of hearing loss to prevent the consequences of unidentified disorders, or has been referred for such a hearing screening.

2. The requirements of subsection 1 do not apply to a hospital in which fewer than 500 childbirths occur annually.

3. The State Board of Health shall adopt such regulations as are necessary to carry out the provisions of [NRS 442.500](#) to [442.590](#), inclusive.

(Added to NRS by [2001, 2461](#))

NRS 442.550 Hearing screenings: Persons authorized to conduct; certain medical facilities to hire or enter into written agreement with provider of hearing screenings; documentation to be placed in medical file of newborn child; written reports.

1. A hearing screening required by [NRS 442.540](#) must be conducted by a provider of hearing screenings.

2. A licensed hospital and a licensed freestanding birthing center shall hire, contract with or enter into a written memorandum of understanding with a provider of hearing screenings to:

(a) Conduct a program for hearing screenings on newborn children in accordance with [NRS 442.500](#) to [442.590](#), inclusive;

(b) Provide appropriate training for the staff of the hospital or freestanding birthing center;

(c) Render appropriate recommendations concerning the program for hearing screenings; and

(d) Coordinate appropriate follow-up services.

3. Not later than 24 hours after a hearing screening is conducted on a newborn child, appropriate documentation concerning the hearing screening, including, without limitation, results, interpretations and recommendations, must be placed in the medical file of the newborn child.

4. A licensed hospital and a licensed freestanding birthing center shall annually prepare and submit to the Division a written report concerning hearing screenings of newborn children in accordance with regulations adopted by the State Board of Health. The report must include, without limitation, the number of newborn children screened and the results of the screenings.

5. The Division shall annually prepare and submit to the Governor a written report relating to hearing tests for newborn children. The written report must include, without limitation:

(a) A summary of the results of hearing screenings administered to newborn children and any other related information submitted in accordance with the regulations of the State Board of Health;

(b) An analysis of the effectiveness of the provisions of [NRS 442.500](#) to [442.590](#), inclusive, in identifying loss of hearing in newborn children; and

(c) Any related recommendations for legislation.

(Added to NRS by [2001, 2461](#))

NRS 442.560 Hearing screening not required if parent or legal guardian of newborn child objects in writing; written objection to be placed in medical file of newborn child. A newborn child may be discharged from the licensed hospital or freestanding birthing center in which he or she was born without having undergone a required hearing screening or having been referred for a hearing screening if a parent or legal guardian of the newborn child objects in writing to the hearing screening. The hospital or freestanding birthing center shall place the written objection of the parent or legal guardian to the hearing screening in the medical file of the newborn child.

(Added to NRS by [2001, 2461](#))

NRS 442.570 Physician to recommend diagnostic evaluation if hearing screening indicates possibility of hearing loss. If a hearing screening conducted pursuant to [NRS 442.540](#) indicates that a newborn child may have a hearing loss, the physician attending to the newborn child shall recommend to the parent or legal guardian of the newborn child that the newborn child receive an in-depth hearing diagnostic evaluation.

(Added to NRS by [2001, 2462](#))

NRS 442.580 Lead physician or audiologist: Designation; responsibilities. A licensed hospital and a licensed freestanding birthing center shall formally designate a lead physician or audiologist to be responsible for:

1. The administration of the Program for conducting hearing screenings of newborn children; and

2. Monitoring the scoring and interpretation of the test results of the hearing screenings.

(Added to NRS by [2001, 2462](#))

NRS 442.590 Written brochures: Creation by Division; required contents; distribution.

1. The Division shall create written brochures that use terms which are easily understandable to a parent or legal guardian of a newborn child and include, without limitation:

- (a) Information concerning the importance of screening the hearing of a newborn child; and
- (b) A description of the normal development of auditory processes, speech and language in children.

2. The Division shall provide the brochures created pursuant to subsection 1 to each licensed hospital and each licensed freestanding birthing center in this state. These facilities shall provide the brochures to the parents or legal guardians of a newborn child.

(Added to NRS by [2001, 2462](#))