

## **Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI), Newborn Hearing Screening (NHS), and Early Intervention Program (EIP)**

New York State Public Health Law, Section 2500-g, enacted in 1999, requires the Commissioner of Health to establish a program to screen newborn infants for hearing problems. To identify newborns with significant hearing loss, the New York State Department of Health has implemented a statewide comprehensive Newborn Hearing Screening Program. The Department, in collaboration with health care providers, hospital representatives, parent representatives and audiologists has developed a new Subpart 69-8 of Title 10 (Health) of the New York Codes, Rules and Regulations (NYCRR) to implement the Newborn Hearing Screening Program. This regulation was adopted on August 22, 2001, became effective on October 20, 2001, and requires all facilities caring for newborn infants to administer a newborn hearing screening program as of that date.

All infants should be screened for hearing loss no later than 1 month of age. Hearing screening should be completed as part of the newborn screening done at the birth hospital prior to discharge. If an infant does not pass the initial hearing screening, the birth hospital is required to schedule a follow-up hearing screening or refer to an outpatient audiologist. The birth hospital is also required to ensure that the follow-up hearing screening was completed.

If an infant does not pass the follow-up hearing screening, then a pediatric audiologic evaluation should be conducted no later than 3 months of age. For infants who do not pass the pediatric audiologic evaluation, referral to Early Intervention Program should be made no later than 6 months of age.

Please refer to the below guidance for more information.

# Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI)/Newborn Hearing Screening (NHS) and Early Intervention Program (EIP)

## EHDI 1-3-6 Guidelines:

*Initial Hearing Screening no later than 1-month of age  
Diagnosis of Hearing Loss no later than 3-months of age  
Enrollment into EI or other services no later than 6-months of age*

### Newborn Screening – Birth Hospital (Prior to Discharge)

#### Hospital-Based Inpatient Screening

- Hospital administers hearing screening for newborn.
  - o Otoacoustic Emissions (OAE)
  - o Auditory Brainstem Response (ABR)
- Birth Hospital updates infant records via birth register.
- Birth Hospital staff ensures information is documented correctly in EHDI-Information System (EHDI-IS).
- Birth Hospital staff/Newborn Hearing Screening Program Manager is responsible to ensure documentation and follow-up screening is completed, regardless of whether the screening was completed by hospital staff or a contractor.

Pass

Ongoing Care of All Infants: Coordinated by the Medical Home Provider

Did Not Pass

Every infant younger than 28 days who fails their initial screening is required to be tested for Cytomegalovirus (CMV)

### Re-Screening Complete – Before 1 Month

#### Outpatient Re-Screening

- Birth Hospitals are required to schedule infant for follow-up screening or refer to an outpatient audiologist.
- Birth Hospital is required to follow the infant for 75 days, post discharge, to confirm follow-up hearing screening was completed.
- Birth Hospitals are allowed to document re-screening results.
- If there is no documentation of follow-up, the Birth Hospital must refer the infant At Risk to the Early Intervention official in the county of residence unless the parent has objected to such a referral.
- **Follow-up screening results or At Risk referral to EI should be documented in EHDI-IS, in the appropriate fields, not in comments.**

Pass

Ongoing Care of All Infants: Coordinated by the Medical Home Provider

### Diagnostic Evaluation – Before 3 Months

#### Pediatric Audiologic Evaluation

- Audiologist reports to NY EHDI Program
  - o Results for every child seen must be documented in EHDI-IS, regardless of Hearing Loss Status, in the appropriate fields, not in Comments.

Pass

Ongoing Care of All Infants: Coordinated by the Medical Home Provider

Did Not Pass

### Intervention Services – Before 6 Months

- Refer to The Early Intervention Program (EIP) [https://www.health.ny.gov/community/infants\\_children/early\\_intervention/index.htm](https://www.health.ny.gov/community/infants_children/early_intervention/index.htm)
- Referral to EIP should be documented in EHDI-IS, in the appropriate Refer to EI field, not in comments.
- Refer to other Intervention Services as discussed between Parents, Audiologist, and other Healthcare Providers.

# *Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI)/ Newborn Hearing Screening (NHS) and Early Intervention Program (EIP)*

## **Best Practices for MCOs to Assist Providers with EHDI/NHS to Early Intervention Program (EIP) Process**

- ❖ The Early Intervention Program (EIP) is administered locally by Local Health Department (LHDs). Keep Early Intervention (EI) contact information for the county(ies) under your coordination handy. Refer to the contact resources in the box below for where EI county level contact information can be found.
- ❖ Advise Primary Care Practitioners (PCPs) to obtain parental written informed consent for release of information at first contact with the EIP, in order for information to be shared between the EIP and the PCP.
- ❖ Patient Identifying Information (PII) should only be shared via in person, mail, or secure fax.
- ❖ Referral sources should use County Specific Referral Forms, if available, when referring to the EIP and ensure the forms are completed in their entirety, and legible. Include complete referral source contact information in case the EIP needs to contact the referral source.
- ❖ Referrals should be made to the County EI office in the **county of residence**, not the county of birth.
- ❖ When referring to the EIP be sure to include:
  - Child's Name and Date of birth
  - Complete address
  - Dominant language or mode of communication of child and parent/legal guardian
  - Parent/legal guardian names and address, if different from child, and phone number(s) (multiple numbers if possible)
  - Race/Ethnicity
  - Reason for Referral
  - Developmental concerns, hearing status, testing results completed
  - Insurance information
- ❖ "A Parent's Guide" is available through the NYSBEI website. This is a useful guide that provides parents an overview of the Early Intervention Program. <https://www.health.ny.gov/publications/0532.pdf>

## **Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Contact Resources**

- **Need assistance from EHDI? We can help! Email us at [nyehdi@health.ny.gov](mailto:nyehdi@health.ny.gov). Please do not include any Personally Identifying Information in the message.**
- **Learn more about the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program.**  
[https://www.health.ny.gov/community/infants\\_children/early\\_intervention/newborn\\_hearing\\_screening/](https://www.health.ny.gov/community/infants_children/early_intervention/newborn_hearing_screening/)

## **Early Intervention Program Contact Resources:**

- **Learn more about the Early Intervention Program.**  
[https://www.health.ny.gov/community/infants\\_children/early\\_intervention/index.htm](https://www.health.ny.gov/community/infants_children/early_intervention/index.htm)
- **Contact information for Early Intervention Officials in your NYS Municipal/County.**  
[https://www.health.ny.gov/community/infants\\_children/early\\_intervention/county\\_eip.htm](https://www.health.ny.gov/community/infants_children/early_intervention/county_eip.htm)
- **Need assistance from the EIP? We can help! Email us at [beipub@health.ny.gov](mailto:beipub@health.ny.gov). Please do not include any Personal Identifying Information in the message.**