

**Maine Newborn
Hearing Program**



*When your newborn
has a “Refer Result”
from a newborn
hearing screening...*

What should you do now?

A Parent's Guide

The Earlier, The Better

Knowing about hearing loss as early as possible helps your baby get the special attention needed for language and social development.

The following could all be reasons why your baby had a “refer result” from the first hearing screening:

- Noise in the room
- Fluid in your baby’s ear
- Movement of your baby
- An actual hearing loss

The newborn hearing screening is not a complete hearing test. Out of 13,600 babies born in Maine each year, about 300 will require follow-up testing and about 50 babies will have some form of hearing loss. Without newborn hearing screening, a hearing loss may go undetected for years. More than 90% of the babies born with hearing loss have no family history of hearing loss.

Babies who have a hearing loss can develop to their full potential with early intervention.



YOUR BABY WAS REFERRED FOR MORE TESTING.

When your baby has a “refer result” it does not always mean that your baby has a hearing loss. A “refer result” only means that more testing is needed to find out what your baby can hear.

It is important to have follow-up testing done as soon as possible. A pediatric audiologist (hearing specialist) will do the special follow-up testing needed to know more about your baby’s hearing.

Your baby’s doctor or hospital can tell you when and where to get the follow-up testing .

An appointment has been scheduled for your baby for follow-up testing.

Date: _____ Time: _____

Provider: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

What Happens Next?

An appointment for follow-up testing should be scheduled as soon as possible and before your baby is three months old. It is very important to keep this appointment. If you can not keep this appointment, please tell your doctor right away or call the Maine Newborn Hearing Program at **VOICE (207) 287-8427** or **1-800-698-3624** **TTY (207) 287-8015** or **1-800-438-5514**.

Prepare Your Baby

It will help if your baby is asleep during the follow-up testing. Here are some tips to help:

- Try not to let your baby nap near the time of the visit.
- Feed your baby when you arrive for the testing. This may make your baby sleepy.
- Bring a blanket, extra diapers and anything that will help your baby be comfortable.

What Will Happen After My Visit?

It is very important to follow through with any recommendations from your audiologist and your baby’s doctor. Your baby’s doctor and audiologist will help you know about the next steps for you and your baby.



What should I do before the follow-up testing?

Communicating with your child is a joyful experience. Babies are ready to begin communicating with you from the minute they are born regardless of their ability to hear. Every day is important!



Whether or not your baby has a hearing loss, your baby will need lots of love and attention. Even babies who can't hear you respond to your touch and your eyes. Using your voice, loving touch and smiling face are all very important ways of communicating with your child.

How will I pay for the follow-up testing?

Many insurance companies cover the cost of audiology diagnostic testing. MaineCare will cover audiological evaluation services for eligible children.

A Bureau of Health Program known as The Children with Special Health Needs Program may help cover the cost of the testing. You may contact them at : (207) 287-5139 or 1-800-698-3624 or TTY: (207)287-8015 or 1-800-438-5514 to find out more.

If you have questions about insurance coverage for audiological testing, please be sure to check with your insurance company or with the audiologist before your appointment.

Maine law established the Maine Newborn Hearing Program in the year 2000. The purpose of the program is to assure that all Maine families, caregivers and their children have information and access to newborn hearing screenings.

Maine Newborn Hearing Screening Program
Department of Human Services
Bureau of Health
Division of Family Health
11 State House Station
Augusta ME 04333-0011
VOICE 287-5357 or 1-800-698-3624
TTY 287-8015 or 1-800-438-5514



John Elias Baldacci
Governor

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