

## RS 46:2264

### §2264. Identification of hearing impairment in infants

A. The office of public health in the Department of Health and Hospitals shall establish, in consultation with the advice of the Louisiana Commission for the Deaf and the advisory council created in R.S. 46:2265, a program for the early identification and follow-up of infants at risk, hearing impaired infants, and infants at risk of developing a progressive hearing impairment. That program shall, at a minimum:

(1) Develop criteria or factors to identify those infants at risk for hearing impairment and infants at risk of developing a progressive hearing impairment, including the risk factors set forth in this Chapter, and develop an at-risk questionnaire for infant hearing loss.

(2) Create an at-risk registry to include, but not be limited to, the identification of infants at risk for hearing impairment, hearing impaired infants, and infants at risk of developing a progressive hearing impairment.

(3) Provide to the hospitals and other birthing sites the at-risk questionnaire for infant hearing loss and require that the form be completed for any newborn prior to discharge from the hospital or other birthing site. As to infants at risk, copies of the completed at-risk questionnaire shall be distributed to the at-risk registry of the office, the parent or guardian, and, if known, the infant's primary care physician and the provider of audiological services.

(4) Require for all newborn infants that the hospital of birth or that hospital to which the newborn infant may be transferred provide screening for hearing impairment by auditory brainstem response (ABR) screening, or evoked otoacoustic emissions (EOAE) screening, or any other screening device approved by the office before discharge. The results of that screening for hearing impairment shall be provided to the at-risk registry of the office of public health, the parent or guardian, and if known, the primary care physician and the provider of audiological services.

(5) Develop and provide to the hospitals or other birthing sites appropriate written materials regarding hearing impairment, and require that the hospitals or other birthing sites provide this written material to all parents or guardians of newborn infants.

(6) Develop methods to contact parents or guardians of infants at risk, of hearing impaired infants, and of infants at risk of developing a progressive hearing impairment.

(7) Establish a telephone hotline to communicate information about hearing impairment, hearing screening, audiological evaluation, and other services for hearing impaired infants.

(8) Provide that when screening for hearing impairment indicates a hearing loss, audiological evaluation shall be done as soon as practical. The parents or guardians of the infant shall be provided with information on locations at which medical and audiological follow up can be obtained.

B. The office shall consult with the advisory council and implement the program.

C. The office shall develop a system for the collection of data, determine the cost-effectiveness of the program and disseminate statistical reports to the Louisiana Commission for the Deaf.

D. The office, in cooperation with the state Department of Education, shall develop a plan to coordinate early educational and audiological services for infants identified as hearing impaired.

E. The office shall follow current practices and applicable guidelines that are currently utilized in Louisiana and will consider practices and guidelines that may be established by the National Institute on Deafness and other Communication Disorders (NIDCD).

Acts 1992, No. 417, §1; Acts 1999, No. 653, §1.

**RS 46:2265**

§2265. Advisory council creation; membership; terms; quorum; compensation

A. There is hereby created an advisory council for the program of early identification of hearing impaired infants. The council shall consist of fourteen members as follows:

- (1) An otolaryngologist or otologist.
- (2) An audiologist with extensive experience in evaluating infants.
- (3) A neonatologist.
- (4) A pediatrician.
- (5) A deaf person.
- (6) A hospital administrator.
- (7) A speech and language pathologist.
- (8) A school teacher or administrator certified in education of the deaf.
- (9) A parent of an oral hearing impaired child.
- (10) A parent of a hearing impaired child utilizing total communication.
- (11) A representative of the state Department of Education designated by the superintendent of education.
- (12) A representative of the office designated by the assistant secretary of the office.
- (13) A representative from the Louisiana Commission for the Deaf.
- (14) A representative from the Louisiana Association of the Deaf.

B. Members of the council in accordance with Paragraphs (A)(1) through (10), (13), and (14) shall be appointed by the governor, subject to Senate confirmation. Other members are not subject to Senate confirmation.

C. Members of the council representing offices and departments of state government shall serve four-year terms concurrent with that of the governor. Other members shall serve three-year terms, except that in making the initial appointments, four members shall be appointed for a one-year term, four shall be appointed for two-year terms, and four shall be appointed for three-year terms. No member may serve more than two consecutive terms.

D. Each member shall serve without compensation.

E. A majority of the members of the council shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of all business.

F. The members of the council shall elect from their membership a chairman and a vice chairman.

Acts 1992, No. 417, §1.

## **RS 46:2266**

§2266. Powers, duties, functions of the advisory council

The advisory council shall:

(1) Advise and recommend risk factors or criteria for infants who are at risk of hearing impairments and infants at risk of developing a progressive hearing impairment.

(2) Advise the office as to hearing screening, setting standards for the program, monitoring and reviewing the program, and providing quality assurance for the program.

(3) Advise the office as to integrating the program for early identification of hearing impaired infants with existing medical, audiological, and early infant education programs.

(4) Advise the office as to materials to be distributed to the public concerning hearing impaired infants.

(5) Advise the office on the implementation of the program for early identification and follow up of infants at risk, hearing impaired infants, and infants who are at risk of developing a progressive hearing impairment.

Acts 1992, No. 417, §1.

**RS 46:2267**

§2267. Effective date; rules and regulations

The office of public health shall, by July 1, 2000, adopt rules and regulations necessary to implement the program in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act.

Acts 1992, No. 417, §1; Acts 1999, No. 653, §1.