

Newborn Hearing Screening Training Curriculum (NHSTC) Competency Checklist

The Newborn Hearing Screening Training Curriculum (NHSTC) Competency Checklist is a tool for newborn hearing screening programs to observe, assess, document and track screening staff competencies as outlined in the Newborn Hearing Screening Training Curriculum (NHSTC).

Screening competencies should be documented on *at least* 3 infants utilizing the screening equipment and technology used at your facility: Automated Auditory Brainstem Response (A-ABR), Otoacoustic Emissions (OAEs) or both OAE and A-ABR.

It is recommended that the screener shadow a competent screener until all competencies on the checklist are met and readiness to screen independently is determined. This checklist can also be used to identify areas where further training and support is needed for new or existing screeners.

There may be parts of the checklist that do not apply to your facility and therefore, would not need to be filled out. For example, if your facility only screens babies with A-ABR, the OAE section would not need to be filled out.

Once observations are complete and screening competency has been determined both the screener and the observer should sign off and date this checklist. It is recommended that the troubleshooting guide in the NHSTC Resources Section is reviewed with the screener prior to independent screening.

Definitions:

Observer- competent screener, newborn hearing screening program manager, audiologist

Screener- new screening staff or existing screening staff needing additional training/support

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SCREENER NAME: _____

OBSERVER NAME: _____

Preparing to Screen	Observation Date:		Observation Date:		Observation Date:	
	Met	Not Met	Met	Not Met	Met	Not Met
Conducts an equipment check which includes all cables and transducers prior to screening						
Checks/restocks screening supplies						
Determines babies to be screened based on criteria/facility protocol						
Completes all required demographic data entry procedures prior to screening (screening equipment or other database (medical record and state reporting, etc.) are followed and that the information entered is verified and accurate						
Follows HIPAA protocols						
Verifies ID bracelet against Mother's bracelet or follows infant security protocol						
Explains the screening to families using a scripted message						
Obtains and documents permission to screen babies, if needed						
Ensures baby is in an optimal state (quiet, fed, swaddled)						
Ensures a quiet screening environment						
Performs hand washing and infection control procedures per hospital policy before and after screening each baby						
Conducts a visual inspection of the ear						

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Comments/Plan: Preparing to Screen Competencies
Observation 1:
Observation 2:
Observation 3:

Otoacoustic Emissions (OAE) Screening	Observation Date:		Observation Date:		Observation (Date):	
Competency	Met	Not Met	Met	Not Met	Met	Not Met
Ensures 3 Ps (proper positioning of the screener, proper positioning of baby and proper positioning of ear being screened)						
Chooses the appropriate ear tip size						
Uses the proper probe placement technique as outlined in the NHSTC						
Conducts the tug test to ensure a stable fit and tight seal						
Verifies the correct ear is selected prior to starting the screening						
Checks probe tip for debris in between ears						
Discards probe tip when screening is complete						
Explains results to family using a scripted message in a clear and concise manner						
Provides results to the family in writing						
Uses FAQs to respond to questions and concerns						
Completes all documentation and/or tracking requirements						

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Comments/Plan: OAE Screening Competencies
Observation 1:
Observation 2:
Observation 3:

Automated Auditory Brainstem Response (A-ABR) Screening	Observation Date:		Observation Date:		Observation Date:	
Competency	Met	Not Met	Met	Not Met	Met	Not Met
Prepares the skin for electrode placement						
Properly places electrodes (according to equipment manufacturer guidelines)						
Properly places sound transducer on or in baby's ear(s)						
Verifies the correct ear is selected (if applicable)						
Checks probe tip (if applicable) for debris in between ears						
Discards all disposables when screening is complete						
Explains results to family using a scripted message in a clear and concise manner						
Provides results to the family in writing						
Uses FAQs to respond to questions and concerns						
Completes all documentation and/or tracking requirements						

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Comments/Plan: A-ABR Screening Competencies
Observation 1:
Observation 2:
Observation 3:

Screening Babies with Risk Factors	Observation Date:		Observation Date:		Observation Date:	
Competency	Met	Not Met	Met	Not Met	Met	Not Met
Demonstrates how to find out if risk factors are present						
Documents risk factors in the baby's medical record, if applicable						
Determines which babies can be screened and which babies should not be screened						
Performs facility protocol for high-risk baby screening, i.e. A-ABR, A-ABR and OAE)						
Explains results to family using a scripted message in a clear and concise manner						
Provides results to the family in writing						
Explains results to family using a scripted message in a clear, concise manner						
Uses FAQs to respond to questions and concerns						

Comments/Plan: Screening Babies with Risk Factors Competencies
Observation 1:

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Observation 2:
Observation 3:

Follow-up Activities	Observation Date:		Observation Date:		Observation Date:	
Competency	Met	Not Met	Met	Not Met	Met	Not Met
Documents hearing screening results per facility protocol (EMR, flowsheets, screening equipment)						
Confirmation primary care physician after discharge and informs them of the screening results						
Arranges for congenital CMV screening if applicable at your facility						
Communicates to the family exactly what they need to do after discharge if follow-up is needed; provides next steps instructions verbally and in writing						
Schedules outpatient follow-up appointments prior to discharge (if applicable)						
Obtains contact information for two alternative contacts						
Verifies baby's demographic information is accurate						
Completes all state reporting and data management responsibilities						

Comments/Plan: Follow-up Activities Competencies
Observation 1:

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Observation 2:
Observation 3:

I have observed the screener and feel they are competent to screen newborn hearing independently.

Signature of Observer: _____

Date: _____

I have completed the NHSTC and a minimum of 3 hearing screenings under observation of an experienced/competent screener. I feel competent to screen newborn hearing independently and know where to access troubleshooting guides if/when needed.

Signature of Screener: _____

Date: _____