

## **VI. ACCESS TO EARLY INTERVENTION (EI) SERVICES STANDARDS**

Hearing Screening for Newborns Act, Section 20(c) requires the development of a referral system to early intervention services and hearing aids for those infants diagnosed with hearing loss. It should be noted, however, that family participation in the Early Intervention Program is voluntary.

### **A. IDEA Part C Referral Requirements**

1. In order to comply with Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Part C, referrals of children with hearing loss potentially eligible for early intervention services must be made within two (2) days of confirmation of hearing loss.
  - a. Information must be provided to all audiologists and otolaryngologists about both their responsibility to refer children diagnosed with hearing loss to the Illinois Early Intervention System and the procedure for making such a referral.
  - b. All infants identified with hearing loss will be referred to the Child and Family Connections Offices, which are established to provide access to early intervention services for Illinois children with disabilities under the age of three.

### **B. Payment Responsibility**

1. The federal hierarchy of payment will be followed to provide hearing aids or other needed services to infants identified with hearing loss.
2. Medicaid or KidCare is first payer for Medicaid supportable services.
3. Title V (DSCC) is second payer for DSCC supportable services.
4. Part C (EI Program) is the payer of last resort.