

## Program Partners Ensuring Hearing Screening for Every Newborn in Illinois

### For Assistance Contact:

#### **Division of Specialized Care for Children (DSCC)**

**1-800-322-3722 (Voice/TTY)**

**8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday - Friday**

This agency works with children with disabilities, and those who have conditions which may lead to disabilities. By helping to provide proper specialized diagnosis and medical care, DSCC assists children to grow and develop to the full extent of their abilities.



#### **Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH)**

**1-800-545-2200 (Voice) or 1-800-547-0466 (TTY)**

The hospital will report all babies who failed the screening to the Illinois Department of Public Health and to the baby's doctor. Staff at IDPH can answer questions about the newborn hearing screening program and give you information about local programs.

#### **Illinois Department of Human Services (DHS)**

**1-800-843-6154 (Voice) or 1-800-447-6404 (TTY)**

This agency administers the newborn hearing screening program with IDPH. DHS has many programs to help families and children with special needs.



Programs, activities and employment opportunities in the Illinois Department of Human Services are open and accessible to any individual or group without regard to age, sex, sexual orientation, disability, ethnic origin or religion. The department is an equal opportunity employer and practices affirmative action and reasonable accommodation programs.

**Your local health department (look in the yellow pages of your phone book for the phone number.)** Local health departments know about the newborn hearing screening program. Staff can tell you about programs in your area that can help your family and your baby.

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# Illinois Newborn Hearing Program

Providing Sound Beginnings



## Important Instructions to Parents



**If Your Baby Did Not Pass  
the Hearing Screening Test  
in the Hospital**

***Your baby did not pass the newborn hearing screening. Some babies fail these screenings but still may have normal hearing. There are many reasons this could happen.***

## **IT IS VERY IMPORTANT FOR YOUR CHILD TO HAVE ANOTHER HEARING TEST.**

This test will be more detailed than the screening tests and also is harmless. It is done while your baby sleeps. It is the only way to know if your baby can hear normally.

### **Do Not Wait!**

Studies show that babies with hearing loss (even deafness), can learn normal language, if

- The hearing loss is discovered as early as possible after birth, but no later than age 6 months; and
- Hearing aids are fitted by age 1-3 months if needed (the sooner the better); and
- The baby is enrolled in an educational program that meets his or her needs by 6 months of age.

### **Who Should Do the Hearing Test?**

The hearing test should be done by an audiologist. This is a person trained to test hearing and to follow-up with you and your baby.

### **How Do I Arrange the Test?**

#### **If you have Medicaid or KidCare:**

1. Call the KidCare Hotline at 1-866-4-OUR-KIDS (1-866-468-7543) or 1-877-204-1012 (TTY).
2. Tell them you have a Medicaid or KidCare card and your baby needs a diagnostic newborn hearing test.
3. Ask for names, addresses and phone numbers of audiologists in your area who are Medicaid/KidCare providers. The Hotline cannot guarantee that the audiologist is currently accepting new patients.
4. Call your baby's physician for a referral to an audiologist.
5. Call the audiologist, tell him/her what is needed and that you have a Medicaid/KidCare card. Arrange a date and time for the test.

#### **If you have insurance:**

1. Call your insurance company.
2. Tell them your baby needs a diagnostic newborn hearing test.
3. Ask if there is anything special that must be done to get the test paid for by insurance.
4. If a referral is needed, call the baby's physician for a referral to an audiologist who is a provider for your plan.
5. Call an audiologist who is a provider for your insurance plan and arrange the test.



#### **If you are having difficulties making arrangements for a diagnostic newborn hearing test or do not have insurance:**

1. Call the Division of Specialized Care for Children (DSCC) at 1-800-322-3722 (Voice/TTY). Ask for the phone number of the DSCC office nearest to your home. Call your local DSCC office.
2. Ask for names, addresses and phone numbers of audiologists who can do this test. If you have KidCare or Medicaid, ask the staff to help you find a Medicaid/KidCare provider in your area who can do newborn hearing testing.
3. Call one of the audiologists and arrange a date and time for the test.

#### **If you need help paying for the diagnostic newborn hearing test:**

1. Call the Division of Specialized Care for Children (DSCC) at 1-800-322-3722 (Voice/TTY). Ask for the phone number of your local DSCC office. Call and tell them you need help paying for a diagnostic newborn hearing test.
2. DSCC can pay for diagnostic newborn hearing tests when you have no other resources. DSCC also pays for medical care and hearing aids for eligible families.
3. DSCC can answer questions, give information and help you get services you and your baby need. DSCC can help you find an audiologist or medical provider who can work with Medicaid and KidCare. DSCC can also help you if you are having problems getting services through your insurance plan.