Protocol for Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) Hearing Screens

Figure 1. Protocol for NICU Hearing Screens

Birth at < 34 weeks PMA

- The screening is completed when the baby reaches 34 weeks PMA (with no medical contraindications to screening*)

Pass

Diagnostic ABR is scheduled

Fail

Follow-up per NICUH recommendations

Birth at ≥ 34 weeks PMA

- The screening is completed as soon as possible (with no medical contraindications to screening*)

Description of Figure 1: Protocol for NICU Hearing Screens

For a Birth at less than 34 weeks Post Menstrual Age (PMA)

The screening is completed when the baby reaches 34 weeks PMA (with no medical contraindications to screening) (Medical contraindications include high frequency oscillatory ventilation (HFOV), electroencephalogram (EEG) monitoring, unstable...
hypotension requiring vasoactive drips, or, if the medical team feels the baby is too unstable for the test to be completed.)

**Fail**

Diagnostic Auditory Brainstem Response (ABR) is scheduled

**Pass**

Follow-up per Joint Committee on Infant Hearing (JCIH) recommendations

**For Birth at or greater than 34 weeks Post Menstrual Age PMA**

The screening is completed as soon as possible (with no medical contraindications to screening) (Medical contraindications include high frequency oscillatory ventilation (HFOV), electroencephalogram (EEG) monitoring, unstable hypotension requiring vasoactive drips, or, if the medical team feels the baby is too unstable for the test to be completed.)

**Fail**

Diagnostic Auditory Brainstem Response (ABR) is scheduled

**Pass**

Follow-up per Joint Committee on Infant Hearing (JCIH) recommendations

**Data Collection:**

- For each Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) baby screened, document the date the screen was completed.
- If the screen was completed after more than one month in the NICU, document the Post Menstrual Age (PMA) at the time of the screen.
- Determine the percentage of babies screened by one month in the NICU AND by 44 weeks PMA.
- Track the data monthly over the course of one year.
### Acronyms:

**Table 1. List of Acronyms**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Full Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ABR</td>
<td>Auditory Brainstem Response</td>
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<tr>
<td>EEG</td>
<td>Electroencephalogram</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HFOV</td>
<td>High frequency oscillatory ventilation</td>
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<tr>
<td>JCIH</td>
<td>Joint Committee on Infant Hearing</td>
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<tr>
<td>NICU</td>
<td>Neonatal Intensive Care Unit</td>
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<tr>
<td>PMA</td>
<td>Post Menstrual Age</td>
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