



Birthing Center Best Practice Tips for Hearing Screens



This tip sheet is designed to be a quick reference tool only. For more detailed information, visit www.floridanewbornscreening.com to review the [Florida Guidelines for Newborn Hearing Screening](#).

When to screen

- Perform a hearing screen soon after baby feeds
- Encourage returning parents to postpone feeding until arrival
- Allow time for feeding so baby can sleep during the screen

Daily equipment check

Perform a daily system functioning test before screening a baby (Sentiero Probe Test Quick Start)

- Maintain an equipment log to track daily systems check completed by staff
- Do not perform a hearing screen when the equipment check fails
- Contact Peggy Waterman at 850-245-4049 or email Margaret.waterman@flhealth.gov

Where to screen

Provide a quiet environment to perform hearing screens. Hearing screening equipment is sensitive to noise and muscle movement. When baby is moving or sucking, noise and artifact negatively impact the screening results.

- Place a sign on the exam room door alerting others a hearing screen is in progress.
- Screen in a quiet space at your facility, away from common areas or restrooms and discourage conversations.
- Minimize electronic interference (i.e., turn off lights, cell phones, television, etc.)

Performing a high-quality hearing screen

- Encourage staff to wait until baby is asleep before starting the hearing screen
- Swaddle and place hat over baby's head
- Perform a visual check of head and ears to identify ear or facial abnormalities, including each ear canal to determine if there is an opening
- Ensure baby's head and neck are not tilted to one side as this can block or flatten the ear canal
- Place probe cord above baby's head and clip the cord to a blanket or clothing
- Place tip in ear, wait for baby to settle, then start the screen (Sentiero Quick Start Guide)

Hearing Screen Results

Pass result in each ear:

- When a newborn passes the initial screen, communicate results to the family and report the results on the infant screening blood card.

Fail/Refer results in one or both ears:

- When a newborn does not pass/fails the initial hearing screen in one or both ears, plan to perform a single repeat hearing screen, in **both** ears, at the two-week follow-up appointment.
 - Report initial failed result on the blood card
 - Report repeat hearing screen results using the eReports system
- Notify the baby's care team representative or baby's primary care provider (PCP) to order cCMV screen before 21 days of age