

NEWBORN HEARING SCREENING MONTHLY

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Calibrating my newborn hearing screening equipment

Properly calibrated newborn hearing screening equipment helps to ensure a high fidelity newborn hearing screening program and helps to ensure that families are receiving the most accurate information about their baby's hearing status. Knowing that even mild hearing loss can affect development in infants and young children, it is important to ensure your equipment is properly calibrated. Improperly calibrated screening equipment can lead to babies passing their screening even though they have a hearing loss or may lead to babies failing/referring on their screening even though their hearing falls within normal limits.

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Here To Help

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When should I have my newborn hearing screening equipment calibrated?

Annual calibration of your newborn hearing screening equipment is endorsed by the U.S. Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA), the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and the Joint Committee on Infant Hearing (JCIH). Calibration assures your equipment is functioning according to specifications by the manufacturer.

Unfortunately, there is no universally accepted “calibration standard” for otoacoustic emission (OAE) or automated auditory brainstem response (AABR) equipment. In the absence of a universally accepted “calibration standard” for your equipment, it is recommended to have your equipment calibrated annually by an independent entity. This could be a local distributor of newborn hearing screening equipment with experience with routine annual calibration.

Knowing if my newborn hearing screening equipment is working properly

Below are several tips to help you feel confident that your newborn hearing screening equipment is working properly.

1. Daily Listening Checks

Perform daily listening checks of your newborn hearing screening equipment to assure equipment is operating properly.

2. Listening Check Log

Document your daily listening checks in a log so there is a record of properly functioning equipment.

3. Daily Cable Check

Provide regular care and maintenance of the probes and cables that are used with your hearing screening equipment.

4. Annual Calibration

Ensure that annual calibration of your newborn hearing screening equipment is performed by a local distributor with calibration experience.

5. Annual Calibration Log

Document annual calibration results in a log so there is a record of properly functioning equipment.

6. Data Entry & Statistical Monitoring

Document pass, fail/refer, and loss to follow-up rates of infants screened at your facility and closely monitor these numbers in collaboration with the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (CDPHE).