

Baby HEARS-Hawaii Project

Baby Hearing Evaluation and Access to Resources and Services



1 - 3 - 6 Plan for Early Hearing Detection and Intervention

Screening before age 1 month

Diagnostic evaluation before age 3 months

Early intervention before age 6 months

Goal #1 – By March 31, 2008, 99.0% infants will be screened for hearing loss before age 1 month.

- Provide information/education to primary care and other community providers on timely newborn hearing screening and follow-up.
 - Arrange education about newborn hearing screening, diagnostic audiological evaluation, enrollment in early intervention, or other topics for primary care providers, early intervention care coordinators, and other community providers.
 - Provide updates/education to hospital newborn hearing screening coordinators.
 - Provide information on newborn hearing screening to midwives.
- Improve screening at three small hospitals with higher rates for rescreening and false positive screens.
 - Place two-stage (OAE and ABR) screening in three rural hospitals with high false positive rates. Provide or arrange training to hospital staff.
 - Monitor screening and rescreening rates to document improvement. Provide technical assistance as needed.
- Improve access to screening/rescreening in the community.
 - Obtain input from families, primary care providers, audiologists, and others on barriers to timely screening and rescreening.
 - Identify and implement strategies for improving the screening process.

Goal #2 – By March 31, 2008, 85% infants with positive newborn hearing screens will receive diagnostic audiological evaluation before age 3 months.

- Improve access to timely audiological evaluations.
 - Obtain input from families, primary care providers, audiologists, and others on barriers to timely diagnostic audiological evaluations.
 - Identify and implement strategies for improving the timeliness of diagnostic audiological evaluations.

- o Convene a meeting of pediatric audiologists to update the protocol for infant diagnostic audiological evaluations that was recommended in 2000.
- Improve the process for collecting data about audiological evaluations.
 - o Identify and implement strategies for obtaining information about diagnostic audiological evaluations more efficiently.

Goal #3 – By March 31, 2008, 85% infants with hearing loss will be enrolled in early intervention services before age 6 months.

- Identify and address factors impacting timely referrals to early intervention.
 - o Obtain input from families, primary care providers, audiologists and others on barriers to enrollment in early intervention services.
 - o Identify and implement the most feasible strategies for improving the timeliness of referrals to early intervention.
- Expand family-to-family support for children with hearing loss.
 - o Provide family-to-family support by facilitating periodic gatherings of families of children with hearing loss to discuss hearing loss, communication, community resources, and other relevant topics.
 - o Work with the Early Intervention Section on its development of a family-to-family support network. Information about family needs from various activities with families of children with hearing loss will be used in developing this network.
 - o Continue SKI-HI curriculum or other relevant trainings for Parent Advisors and Deaf Mentors, in order to serve more families. Provide training to experienced Parent Advisors and Neighbor Island service providers to become certified SKI-HI trainers, if needed.
- Improve data collection and analysis about early intervention enrollment and medical home.
 - o Explore options for obtaining information on the enrollment of children with hearing loss in early intervention services. Implement the most feasible approach.
 - o Improve data collection and analysis about children who passed newborn hearing screening and were later identified with hearing loss.
 - o Complete process for establishing administrative rules that will include requirements for reporting early hearing detection and intervention data to the Department of Health.

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Newborn Hearing Screening Program

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