

**3701-40-02      Hearing screening requirements for hospitals and freestanding birthing centers.**

(A) Each hospital and each freestanding birthing center shall:

Designate a hearing screening coordinator who is responsible for the coordination of the facility's hearing screening program. The coordinator shall be an individual with staff privileges at the facility and either:

- (1) A physician or audiologist; or
- (2) An individual working under the supervision of or in collaboration with a physician or audiologist.

(B) Each hospital and each freestanding birthing center shall develop a written protocol following the recommendations of the joint committee on infant hearing for these criteria:

- (1) Conduct hearing screenings on all newborns born, admitted, or transferred into a hospital or free-standing birthing center prior to discharge, or when determined to be medically appropriate.
- (2) Conduct a second hearing screening when the newborn or infant does not pass the first hearing screening in:
  - (a) Well baby (level I) nurseries; and
  - (b) Special care (level II and III) and NICU nurseries.
- (3) Communicate the results of the hearing screening for every newborn or infant to the attending physician, certified nurse-midwife, certified nurse practitioner, primary care physician, or designated medical home to include:
  - (a) Results of the hearing screening for each ear;
  - (b) Type of hearing screening; and
  - (c) Risk factors for hearing loss, if any.
- (4) Report the following categories of infants to the attending physician, certified nurse midwife, certified nurse practitioner, primary care physician, or designated medical home within forty-eight hours of discharge for:
  - (a) Infants who did not pass a hearing screening; and
  - (b) Infants who were discharged from the facility without a hearing screening.
- (5) Communicate written results of the newborn or infant's hearing screening to the parent, guardian, or custodian prior to discharge to include:
  - (a) Results of the hearing screening for each ear; and
  - (b) Type of hearing screening; and
  - (c) Risk factors for hearing loss, if any.

- (6) Provide the parent, guardian or custodian of a newborn or infant that did not pass the hearing screening or did not receive a hearing screening with the following prior to discharge:
  - (a) A referral to audiologist for hearing evaluation; and
  - (b) Assistance in scheduling an appointment for hearing evaluation before discharge; and
  - (c) Information on the importance of making and keeping an appointment for a hearing evaluation; and
  - (d) A list of audiology facilities where newborn hearing screenings and evaluations are conducted within a sixty mile radius of the family's home.
- (7) Provide the parent, guardian, or custodian of every newborn with printed information provided by the department as outlined in rule 3701-40-10, paragraph (D) of the Administrative Code, prior to discharge including obtaining the signature of the parent, guardian, or custodian indicating receipt of the information.
- (8) Notify the director of the name and contact information of the individual designated as the hearing screening coordinator, the supervising physician or audiologist, the birth clerk, and the hearing clerk on an annual basis and whenever changes occur.
- (9) Report the following categories of infants to the director of ODH, in the manner and format prescribed, within ten days of initial screening, discharge, or transfer:
  - (a) Infants who received a hearing screening and the results of the hearing screening;
  - (b) Infants who did not receive a hearing screening and the reason(s) not screened;
  - (c) Infants whose parents, guardian, or custodian objected to a hearing screening; and
  - (d) Infants who were transferred to or from another hospital.
 

Hospitals and free standing birthing facilities reporting transferred infants shall also report the name of the hospital facility the infant was transferred to or from.
- 10) Report to the director, for each infant, the name and address of the primary care physician, the certified nurse-midwife, certified nurse practitioner, or medical home where the parent will take the newborn or infant for followup care after discharge.

Replaces: 3701-40-02

Effective: 11/12/2013

R.C. 119.032 review dates: 11/01/2018

CERTIFIED ELECTRONICALLY

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Certification

10/21/2013

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Date

Promulgated Under: 119.03  
Statutory Authority: 3701.504  
Rule Amplifies: 3701.503, 3701.505, 3701.506, 3701.507, 3701.508,  
3701.509, 3923.55, 3923.56  
Prior Effective Dates: 2/1/2003, 5/19/08