

# Follow-Up Newborn Hearing Screening

## Why does my baby need another hearing test?

Some babies do not pass the hearing screening in the hospital. Per Ohio law, a parent must have their baby re-checked after discharge from the hospital if they:

- Did not pass the hospital screening in one or both ears
  - Babies should have another evaluation within two to four weeks after leaving the hospital.
- Have a risk factor for progressive or late onset hearing loss (such as family history, CMV, or meningitis)

An audiologist should perform the follow-up testing.

## Why is follow-up testing needed?

- Hearing loss is something you cannot see.
- It is possible to detect hearing loss in the early days of life.
- Early treatment can greatly benefit your baby.
- A baby who has hearing loss may have trouble with language and other skills.

## How will you test my baby's hearing?

The test may look like the screening(s) your baby had in the hospital. They will have an Auditory Brainstem Response (ABR) and Otoacoustic Emissions (OAE) test. We play sounds through tiny earphones that are placed in your baby's ears.

- We measure your baby's responses to those sounds during these tests:
  - ABR: electrodes are placed on different parts of your baby's head to see how well the hearing nerve sends information to the brain
  - OAE: we listen to the "echoes" that come back from your baby's ear
- These tests are painless for your baby. Most of the testing takes place while your baby is asleep.
- You can hold your baby in your arms during the test.



## Follow-Up Newborn Hearing Screening **continued...**

### **What can you do to prepare for your baby's hearing exam?**

Testing is quicker and easier if your baby is sleeping comfortably. Some things you might do to prepare your baby for the hearing test include:

- Try to keep your baby awake for an hour before the appointment
- Schedule feeding time so your baby can eat when you arrive at the Audiology department
- Bring a blanket, extra diapers, change of clothes and extra formula, if used

### **Locations Offering Newborn Hearing Tests**

- Burnet Campus
- Anderson
- Liberty Campus
- Northern Kentucky
- Green Township

For driving directions:

Visit [www.cincinnatichildrens.org/maps](http://www.cincinnatichildrens.org/maps) or call **513-636-4236**.



### **For more information, please contact:**

The Division of Audiology at Cincinnati Children's: **513-636-4236** or **1-800-344-2426**