

Victorian Infant Hearing Screening Program (VIHSP)

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Victorian Infant Hearing Screening Program – Update for MCH nurses July 2016

Changes to surveillance recommendations following newborn hearing screening

The Victorian Infant Hearing Screening Program (VIHSP) has reviewed its hearing surveillance protocols along with the annual review of the VIHSP pages in the My Health and Development Record (Green Book) at the end of December 2015.

Various factors have been taken into consideration including the most recent population-based national and international practice based research findings as well as the philosophy that newborn hearing screening should be inclusive as possible.

The changes that are being implemented with the release of the 2016 My Health and Development Record (Green Book) are outlined below.

- Risk factors are now classified as requiring referral to audiology immediately or at 8-12 months of age
- Congenital abnormality of the head and neck: immediate referral to audiology indicated
- Parental concern regarding baby's hearing: immediate referral no longer indicated
- Indicator for jaundice now defined as *severe jaundice at exchange transfusion levels*

These changes have been reflected on the **VIHSP Audiology Referral Form**, and the reasons for referral have been reorganised so that risk factors recommended for immediate follow up are at the top of the list. This referral form is an interactive Adobe file, so that it can be completed and saved electronically. Copies of the form are available at the VIHSP RCH web page <http://www.rch.org.au/vihsp/resources/Forms/> <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/childhood/professionals/support/Pages/nurses.aspx>

The **My Health and Development Record** has also been updated in relation to newborn hearing screening, as follows:

- Direct Refer has been added as a screen out come option, for when VIHSP refers the baby to audiology without commencing or completing hearing screening
- Risk factors have been updated as described above, and re-ordered to match the VIHSP Audiology Referral form.
- For babies who have received aminoglycoside antibiotics but hadn't completed their course of treatment at the time of the hearing screen, an alert has been added to indicate follow up by the MCH nurse.
- A section for parents to record their baby's audiology appointment details has been added; given that MCH nurses already retain details of any referrals they make this section has been removed.
- The hearing screener's identifier has been added

The baby's screen result will be recorded in the My Health and Development Record. Babies requiring a repeat screen can be identified via a handwritten note indicating this. If you are unsure about any baby who has not completed their screen, contact the VIHSP Head Office on (03) 9345-4941.