

Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services/Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program  
**Hearing Screening and Diagnostic Evaluation – Recommended Algorithm**

Newborn's hearing is screened during birth admission with OAE and/or ABR screening methods.

**If FAIL/REFER** - Outpatient hearing re-screening completed within 1-3 weeks.

**If FAIL/REFER** - Primary Care Provider makes referrals to both:

**Audiologist for Pediatric Audiologic Diagnostic Evaluation**  
*which includes:*

- History, documentation of risk factors
- Otoscope examination
- High Frequency Tympanometry
- Auditory Brainstem Response (ABR) measurements: clicks and frequency-specific (bone conduction, if needed)
- Otoacoustic Emissions (OAE): distortion product or transient

*Complete by 3 months of age (6 weeks preferred to minimize the need for sedation)*

**Early Development Network (IDEA, Part C)**

1-888-806-6287

EDN reviews for eligibility

EDN may be able to provide assistance with diagnostic evaluation, treatment and follow-up services.

**If PERMANENT HEARING LOSS is confirmed -**

1. Primary Care Provider should refer infant to Pediatric Specialists for work up to include:
  - Otolaryngology evaluation
  - Etiologic assessment, e.g., referral for genetic evaluation, retrieval of newborn dried blood spot
  - Ophthalmology evaluation
  - Others, as needed, e.g., neurology, etc.
2. Primary Care Provider should also assure that:
  - Referral to Early Development Network (EDN) has occurred
  - Infant receives ongoing Pediatric Audiologic Services, including hearing aid fitting and/or assistive listening devices
  - Infant receives early intervention services, e.g., speech/language services, education for deaf and hard of hearing, etc.

If middle ear dysfunction with transient conductive hearing loss, re-test or re-screen promptly after medical management.

If hearing is normal and child has risk factors for hearing loss, a comprehensive audiologic evaluation should be conducted at least once by 24-30 months of age.

If no risk factors, screen prior to school entry.