



Timely Diagnosis: A Resource Guide Supporting TeleAudiology

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Benefits

- Provides access to qualified specialists
- Reduces cost to families by reducing travel time and loss of work time
- Increases number of clients that can be scheduled in a day
- Ultimately, reduces loss to follow up and increases timely diagnosis

Challenges

- Can require more time due to the need to direct assistant.
- Specialist must be confident with technology.
- Some in-person follow up may be necessary.
- Requires additional privacy and security procedures.
- Funding and reimbursement varies by state and insurance source.
- Some specialists may feel threatened by competition with telehealth.



Importance

Tele-audiology (T-A): The implementation of audiological services via telehealth technologies. A tool in supporting timely diagnostic evaluations for babies, especially:

- Those living in rural/remote areas
- Those with limited access to pediatric audiologists

Guide Purpose: To share strategies, lessons learned and recommendations for conducting remote diagnostic audiological evaluations with infants based on the experiences of professionals in six states and one Canadian province.

Learning Community Members



- California
- Colorado
- Iowa
- Tennessee
- Wisconsin
- Utah
- Ontario, CAN
- NCHAM

Guide Contents

- I. Introduction
- II. Organizational Readiness
- III. Remote Site Preparation
- IV. Live Evaluation Procedures
- V. Providing Family Centered Communication and Support
- VI. Tele-audiology Technology and HIPAA Compliance
- VII. Tele-audiology Training
- VIII. Licensure, Reimbursement, Legislation
- IX. Evaluation of T-A Efforts
- X. Adherence to Existing Professional Standards
- XI. Other T-A Efforts and Resources

Tools and Examples

Videos

- Equipment set up and implementation
- Video to prepare families
- Implementation tools
- Assessing areas of need
- Correspondence with families
- Training procedures
- State telehealth laws and reimbursement options



Preparing your baby for a hearing test

Your baby is scheduled for hearing test as a follow-up to initial screening at the hospital. This comprehensive evaluation will help diagnose any hearing loss. If a loss is detected, it's important to begin intervention services early so your child can develop key social and communication skills.

These suggestions will help you prepare your baby for the hearing test. This is an hour-long appointment.

- Testing is easiest when babies are full, sleepy and feeling well. We recommend feeding your baby about 20 minutes before the hearing test. A full tummy will help your baby feel calm and more likely to sleep.
- Testing may be done if your baby is awake. Bring along a blanket to decrease restlessness.
- Dress both of you comfortably.
- Testing works best in a quiet environment. If siblings or small children accompany you to this appointment, please bring another caretaker to watch them in the waiting area. Your baby may need your full attention during the test.
- If your baby has a cold or is not well, reschedule the hearing test. To reschedule, call 1-800-271-5245 or 715-381-6371. It is not always possible to finish a hearing test in one appointment. If a second appointment is required, we will schedule it as soon as possible.