

# MEMO

**DATE:** December 12, 2023

**TO:** Leadership – Mother-Baby Care, NICU, Special Care Nurseries, Midwifery, Hearing Health

**FROM:** Provincial Newborn Hearing Screening Program

**RE:** Provincial Newborn Hearing Screening Clinical Procedure

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We are pleased to announce publication of the Provincial Newborn Hearing Screening Procedure [CS-CP-0020 Newborn Hearing Screening](#). Newborn Hearing Screening has been provided at all inpatient birthing sites in Saskatchewan since May 2019. This procedure is for Speech Pathology or Audiology assistants, nursing & midwifery staff tasked with providing newborn hearing screening at all inpatient birthing sites in the province.

Newborn hearing screening is the standard of care in hospitals nationwide. The procedure serves to standardize processes throughout the province to ensure equitable access to care and timely referrals to important audiology services where required. The Procedure and associated documents are now available in document finder and are supported by the education modules released last fall.

A few key messages for leaders to support implementation of this procedure:

- 1) **Education & certification requirements** are summarized in the procedure. All staff providing screening services must be certified & certification reported to their manager or site lead. For certified staff who routinely provide hearing screening, review will be self-directed every two years, or on an as-needed basis.
  - Regina, Saskatoon & Prince Albert hearing screeners who screen hearing in both well-baby and intensive care settings can access their education on [MyConnection](#) by searching “Mat-Child Saskatchewan Newborn Hearing Screening – Regina, Saskatoon and Prince Albert”
  - All other sites who provide screening for well-baby populations only can access their education on [MyConnection](#) by searching “Mat-Child Saskatchewan Newborn Hearing Screening – All Sites”
- 2) **\*New: All hearing screening activity must now be entered into the AccuScreen under patient profiles.** These entries will be subject to routine audit by the audiologist coordinator & site leads will be informed of the results. A provincial audit process is in development by the SHA Early Hearing Working Group and will be shared once published.
- 3) **\*New: An [Early Hearing Clinical Resources Tile](#)** has been created on the SHA Intranet which contains printable Provider Resources to aid staff in application of this procedure at all birthing sites.

The Audiologist coordinator and program assistant will be reaching out directly to staff and educators at all birthing sites to further support implementation. Any questions regarding the procedure or education for newborn hearing screening can be directed to the Audiologist Coordinator at [SKNEWBORNHEARING@SASKHEALTHAUTHORITY.CA](mailto:SKNEWBORNHEARING@SASKHEALTHAUTHORITY.CA).

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