

May 16, 2017

Commissioner Edward P. Ehlinger, MD, MSPH
Minnesota Department of Health
P.O. Box 64975
St. Paul, MN 55164-0975

Dear Commissioner Ehlinger,

The Newborn Hearing Screening Committee is pleased to forward for your acceptance, ***Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Guidelines for Primary Care and Medical Home Providers***. These recommendations were approved by the Newborn Hearing Screening Committee at its last meeting on February 8, 2017.

The Newborn Hearing Screening Committee's membership, functions, and objectives are described in Minnesota Statute section 144.966. The purpose of the Newborn Hearing Screening Advisory Committee is "to advise and assist the Department of Health and the Department of Education in developing protocols and timelines for screening, rescreening, and diagnostic audiological assessment and early medical, audiological, and educational intervention services for children who are deaf or hard-of-hearing."

The Guidelines are intended to promote a standardized approach to hearing screening, diagnosis and care for infants and young children who are deaf or hard of hearing. The recommendations will help guide primary care and medical home providers who see infants and young children in the following situations:

- During the process of diagnosis after an ALERT: REFER result on the newborn hearing screen.
- After a definitive diagnosis of permanent or transient hearing loss.
- Throughout childhood to monitor for emerging hearing loss

The ***Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Guidelines for Primary Care and Medical Home Providers*** were developed by a workgroup of the Committee, which included primary care providers, specialty physicians (genetics and otolaryngology), audiologists, and parents.

Thank you for your work to assure children and their families have access to professionals who are knowledgeable, competent, and utilize best practices. The Committee looks forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Sara Oberg, M.A., CCC-SLP
Minnesota Newborn Hearing Screening Advisory Committee Chair

Enclosure: ***Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Guidelines for Primary Care and Medical Home Providers***