

RISK FACTORS FOR PROGRESSIVE HEARING LOSS

Infants who pass the newborn hearing screening but have risk factors associated with late onset hearing loss need further hearing testing through early childhood. Indiana's EHDI program requires birth facilities to identify and report the following four specific risk factors for progressive hearing loss for infants born in their facility each month on their monthly report AND to the infant's primary care physician (PCP).

1) Family History of Congenital Hearing Loss

Family members born with hearing loss in one or both ears or identified in early childhood (i.e. parents, siblings, grandparents, uncle/aunt, or cousins)

Does not include family members with known causes of hearing loss (i.e. ear infections, ear surgeries, rubella, meningitis, loud noise exposure and/or head trauma)

2) In-utero Infection (TORCH) for this pregnancy

Toxoplasmosis, Rubella or Syphilis – infected during or just before pregnancy

Group Beta Strep (GBS) – sick infant with positive GBS culture

Cytomegalovirus (CMV)

Zika

Herpes Simplex Virus (HSV)

Yes: If baby is diagnosed with neonatal herpes; OR active infection during vaginal delivery; OR active infection during cesarean delivery with a premature membrane rupture

No: If mother had a cesarean delivery with no membrane rupture; no active infection was present at birth

3) Hyperbilirubinemia (Jaundice): At levels requiring an exchange transfusion

4) Craniofacial Anomalies

- Cleft lip and/or palate
- Down Syndrome
- Microcephaly – smaller than expected head size
- Atresia/Microtia – abnormally developed outer ear or closed ear canal
- Other malformations of face, head or skull

Please note: ear pits and ear tags are no longer considered a risk factor

Other risk factors for hearing loss: These do not require reporting to EHDI but should be reported to the infant's PCP for referral for ongoing audiological monitoring. These factors include:

- NICU stay more than 5 days -- including any of the following: ECMO, assisted ventilation, ototoxic medications (aminoglycosides or loop diuretics)
- Syndromes associated with hearing loss (i.e. Pendred, Waardenburg, Ushers)
- Parental/caregiver concern regarding hearing, speech, and language development