



TOBY DOUGLAS  
DIRECTOR

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency  
Department of Health Care Services



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
GOVERNOR

May 13, 2011

To: CCS-Approved Hospitals and General Acute Care Hospitals with Licensed Perinatal Services

Re: California Newborn Hearing Screening Program Inpatient Infant Hearing Screening Provider Standards Update

This letter is to alert you to changes in the Inpatient Infant Hearing Screening Provider Standards (standards). The California Newborn Hearing Screening (NHSP) has updated our procedures:

- 1) To better reflect the recommendations of the Joint Committee on Infant Hearing prohibiting otoacoustic emission (OAE) screening following a refer result on auditory brainstem response (ABR) screening. The specific changes have been bolded and can be found in the Facility and Equipment section (page 2) as well as the Services section (page 4).
- 2) To establish a minimum refer rate. Under the updated standards, refer rates cannot go below 1%. The change can be found in the quality activities section (page 9).

The updated standards can be found on our website at [www.dhcs.ca.gov/nhsp](http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/nhsp) under the publications link on the provider menu. If you have any questions about this change or the NHSP you may contact Hallie Morrow, M.D., Program Medical Consultant at 916-323-8009.

Sincerely,

**Original Signed by Robert Dimand, M.D.**

Robert Dimand, M.D.,  
Chief Medical Officer  
Children's Medical Services