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March 9, 2009

To: California Children's Services (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 a change in the Inpatient Infant Hearing Screening Providers Standards (hereafter referred to as standards). The California Newborn Hearing Screening (NHSP) has specific criteria for infants who do not follow the normal procedure for inpatient hearing screening and instead are referred directly for a complete audiologic assessment. The craniofacial anomalies noted below would preclude the hearing screening. Previous versions of the standards required that infants with either unilateral or bilateral atresia of the external auditory canal be referred for a diagnostic audiologic evaluation instead of screening. The updated standards now state that in addition to the referral for atresia, any infant with microtia of the pinna be referred for a diagnostic evaluation. The addition of microtia as a referral criterion is based on evidence that microtia is correlated with conductive hearing loss and sometimes with sensorineural hearing loss.

The updated standards can be found on our website at [www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/nhsp](http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/nhsp) under the publications link on the provider menu. The specific change is located in Services Section 3.j.7).

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.

**Original Signed by Harvey Fry for Luis R. Rico**

Luis R. Rico, Acting Chief  
Children's Medical Services Branch