

Declaration of consent

Name of the child:

Name of the mother:

Address:

I declare to have been informed adequately about the newborn hearing screening. I agree to have my child participate in the hearing screening, including transmission of data to the responsible Screening Centre and the Gesundheitsamt (local public health office).

Place, date

Signature

I declare to have been informed adequately about the newborn hearing screening. I reject the transmission of data.

Place, date

Signature

Data protection

The transmission and storage of your child's data at the Screening Centre are subject to your consent. The data transmitted are processed in compliance with the principles of responsibility and confidentiality that doctors are bound to maintain. Needless to say, the principles of data protection are observed.

What's the use of a hearing screening?

One per 1,000 children in Germany is born with a severe hearing disorder. Besides there are many children with a mild or moderate hearing impairment, as well as children who develop a hearing disorder later on. If a hearing disorder is not detected for months or even for years, this may have a negative impact on the child's entire development.

Most hearing problems are detected rather late: in many cases not until the age of two, three or even four years of life. These children are noticed for being delayed in their language development or even not learning to speak at all. A child will only learn to speak if it hears and therefore can imitate speech.

The longer the hearing deficiency remains undetected, the harder it is for both, therapist and child, to catch up on the language development. Nowadays, this can be avoided by early diagnosis, remedial education and the modern technology of hearing aids.

How is the hearing screening performed?

Your obstetric or pediatric clinic is equipped with an appliance that allows a hearing test during the first days of your baby's life. The test will be done either with a TEOAE (otoacoustic emissions) or an AABR (automated auditory brainstem response).

For the TEOAE, a probe-emitted tone is transmitted to the child's ear. The healthy ear will notice this tone and will answer by sending another tone back. If this tone is produced, the cochlea works. For the AABR the child will hear a soft click (35db) and the brain's reaction to this click is measured through an electrode placed on the sleeping child's forehead (similar to the electrode used for an ECG).

The best time to perform this examination is after the baby has been fed and is asleep. The pediatric nurse can perform the examination, which takes only a few minutes and is absolutely painless and by no means burdens your baby.

The newborn hearing screening is part of the preventive medical check ups (U1-U9) that by the „*Kinderrichtlinien des gemeinsamen Bundesausschusses (Anlage 6)*“ are entitled to every child. The participation in the newborn

hearing screening in Bavaria is mandatory by article 14, 1 GDVG. The costs will be accepted by the health insurance.

What are the possible results of the hearing screening?

If the hearing test appliance shows a "pass", everything is okay. If the result is "refer" you can not be sure, that the child hears properly. In this case, a control AABR should be done in the birth clinic.

However, if the brain does not react during this examination, this does not mean that your child has a hearing impairment. In this case another examination should be performed later on by an ear, nose and throat specialist (Pedaudiologist) until the 12th week of life.

A hearing disorder may also develop during the first years of life, e.g. by infections. So even after a "pass" in the newborn hearing screening it is important, that the parents pay attention to a proper hearing of their child.

Can hearing disorders be healed?

In the most cases Newborn hearing disorders can't be healed but can be treated efficiently so that a normal development of the child is expected. Therefore the child gets one or two hearing aids, sometimes an operation of the middle ear is necessary or a cochlear implant is done. All these treatments are more effective if they are started early.

Hearing test for all children

In order to make sure that hearing examinations are offered to as many newborns as possible and to guarantee that follow-up examinations are performed (especially if striking results are measured), we kindly request all parents to agree to the transmission of data (see below) to the responsible Screening Centre of the public health service.

The process for Bavarian children is structured as follows:

The examination is performed in the obstetric clinic or by the pediatrician.

Making sure that an examination is offered:

- The newborn's name, address and the result of the first examination are transmitted to the Screening Centre at the Landesamt für Gesundheit und Lebensmittelsicherheit (LGL) by the obstetric clinic, midwife or pediatrician.
- The Screening Centre sends lists containing names and addresses (but no results) to the Gesundheitsamt (local public health office) in charge of the respective child.
- The Gesundheitsamt compares the list of examined children with the birth list of the Einwohnermeldeamt (residents' registration office). By doing so, the Gesundheitsamt can localize children who were not examined or whose examination result was not transmitted correctly. In this case, the Gesundheitsamt contacts the parents and offers advice.

Assuring follow-up examinations:

If a control examination is necessary, the person performing the examination sends further results to the Screening Centre at the LGL (the child hears or it does not hear). If these results are not sent within a few weeks, the Screening Centre contacts the parents in order to verify the examination status. This means safety for you as parents: in case a necessary control examination is forgotten, you will be informed.

The **anonymized** data are used for scientific analyses (e.g. recording the frequency of hearing disabilities; time dependent progression).

If you do not agree to have data transmitted, this will not have any negative impact for you or your child. However, if there is a striking result, it is recommended that you take care of follow-up examinations for yourself. Furthermore, the Gesundheitsamt (local public health department) will contact you once again due to the fact that your child is not registered on the hearing screening list.

If you wish to cancel your consent to participate, you can have the child's personal data, which are stored at the Screening Centre, deleted anytime. Please inform us briefly in writing.

The Screening Centre is at your or your pediatrician's disposal under the

Address:

Screeningzentrum; Bayerisches Landesamt für
Gesundheit und Lebensmittelsicherheit;
Veterinärstraße 2; 85764 Oberschleißheim
hoerscreening@lgl.bayern.de

<http://www.lgl.bayern.de/gesundheit/praevention/kindergesundheit/index.htm>

phone number 09131 - 6808 - 5131

Monday through Thursday from
8 AM until 4 PM and on Friday from
8 AM until 1 PM

Bayerisches Landesamt für
Gesundheit und Lebensmittelsicherheit



Newborn-Hearing Screening



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