

HEARING SCREEN AUTHORIZATION AND RELEASE FORM

Baby's Name: _____ MR# _____

DOB: _____ Birth Hospital: _____

Dear Parent,

Did you know?

- Hearing loss is estimated to occur in 2-3 per 1,000 births.
- Sixty percent of infants with hearing loss or deafness have no risks for hearing loss.
- Hearing screening can be performed immediately after birth and takes only a few minutes.
- According to the Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (AG Bell), more than ninety-five percent of babies with hearing loss have parents who can hear.
- The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Task Force endorses universal newborn hearing screening.
- Currently most states have mandates/proposals in place for universal hearing screening.
- Infants can be fitted for hearing aids as early as **1 month of age**.
- Without a newborn hearing screen, hearing problems may not be detected until a child is 2-3 years of age, at the time of expected speech.
- Diagnosis and early intervention are critical to a child's speech and language development.
- If not detected, hearing loss may cause developmental and social problems later in childhood.

How do you screen my baby for hearing?

- To perform the screen, we place three sensors on your baby. One is placed on the forehead, one on the back of the neck and another on either shoulder.
- A computer delivers a series of soft clicking sounds at the volume of a whisper to each ear.
- When the baby hears these sounds, the brain responds, and his or her brainwaves are measured through the computer.
- The computer analyzes the data and records whether the response is a "pass" or "fail". A fail means the baby did not pass the screen and will require further testing.

Did anyone in your family develop hearing loss before the age of 21? Yes No

If yes, please list the family member and how he or she is related to you. _____

If you have any questions and would like further information, please feel free to ask the Pediatrix Medical Group representative.

Yes, I want my baby to be screened for hearing. The purpose of this screen is to evaluate my baby's hearing ability. Insurance companies are recognizing the importance of hearing screens, but reimbursement for screening still depends largely on the insurance plan, and I may be responsible for payment. In order to verify my insurance coverage, I will advise my insurance carrier that the Hearing Screening procedure code is 92586.

Responsible Party Signature _____ Print Name: _____ Date _____

Witness Signature _____ Print Name: _____ Date _____

No, I do not want my baby to be screened for hearing. I release the hospital, my baby's physician and Pediatrix Medical Group from any liability by making this decision to decline a hearing screening for my baby. I have been advised that the newborn hearing procedure is safe, painless, and may provide information that is important to the development of my child. I am aware that children whose hearing loss is discovered early and who receive intervention before six months of age are more likely to develop normal communication skills than children whose hearing loss is identified later. I have been provided the opportunity to ask questions about risks and benefits of the screening procedure. Nevertheless, I accept the responsibility for choosing not to have this screening performed.

Responsible Party Signature: _____ Print Name: _____ Date: _____

Witness Signature: _____ Print Name: _____ Date: _____

Concern for hearing health should not stop at birth. Some babies are born with a hearing loss; others can develop a hearing loss months or even years after they are born. Environmental factors such as ear infections, certain medicines, and/or high fever can sometimes affect hearing.