

Medical & Allied Branch
Dr Margaret Boyle

HSS(MD)29/2005

To:
All General Practitioners (including Locum GPs)

Room C3.12
Castle Buildings
Stormont BELFAST BT4 3SQ
Tel: 028 90520713
Fax: 028 90520718
Email: margaret.boyle2@dhsspsni.gov.uk

Your Ref:
Our Ref: HSS(MD)29/2005
Date: 16th September 2005

Dear Colleague

COMMENCEMENT OF THE NEWBORN HEARING SCREENING PROGRAMME

Further to the CMO letter (HSS(MD)18-2005) issued on 23rd May 2005 I am writing to advise you that the Newborn Hearing Screening (NHS) programme will be fully implemented across Northern Ireland on 1st October 2005. All babies born from that date will be routinely offered newborn hearing screening. It will be carried out in maternity units before the baby is discharged. Processes will however be in place to identify and offer / complete screening, for those infants born at home or those who discharge early. Infants born from 1st October 2005 who move into Northern Ireland in the first six months of life, with no newborn hearing screening history, will also be followed up.

Infants born before 1st October 2005 will continue to be offered the Distraction Hearing Test at 7 months of age. Routine Distraction testing at 7 months will cease by mid-2006.

The Child Health System (CHS) has been developed and made accessible to NHS Screeners in maternity units in order that newborn hearing screening information may be captured. The Personal Child Health Record (red book) has been revised to allow a hard copy of the screening results to be shared with general practitioners and health visitors. Health visitors and general practitioners should remove their copies of screening results from page 35a of the red book (health visitor - green copy, general practitioner - yellow copy). In the Northern Board area the CHS Bureau Service will forward copies of the results of screening carried out in NHSSB hospitals to general practitioners.

Enclosed for your information are the contact details of the NHS Co-ordinators in Northern Ireland, including the hospitals in which they provide screening services and the geographical areas for which they have responsibility for follow-up. Please do not hesitate to contact the NHS Co-ordinator in your area should you have any queries regarding the newborn hearing screening services.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Margaret Boyle
Chair, Regional Newborn Hearing Screening Steering Group.

cc: Dr Vinod Tohani, Chairperson, Regional User Advisory Group for CHS
Mr Mike O'Hare, Chairperson, Regional NIMATS User Group
Dr Ian Carson, Chairperson, Health + Care Number Implementation Project
Mr Gordon Purdy, Directorate of Information Systems
Dr Des Maltby, Directorate of Information Systems
Dr Henrietta Campbell, Chief Medical Officer,
Mr Francis Rice, Acting Chief Nursing Officer,
Newborn Hearing Screening Co-ordinators
Members of the Regional Newborn Hearing Screening Steering Group

This letter is available at www.dhsspsni.gov.uk and also on the DHSSPS Extranet which can be accessed directly at <http://extranet.dhsspsni.gov.uk> or by going through the HPSS Web at <http://www.n-i.nhs.uk> and clicking on DHSSPS.

**N. IRELAND NEWBORN HEARING SCREENING PROGRAMME
LOCAL SCREENING CO-ORDINATORS**

BOARD	TRUST SERVICE PROVIDER	CO-ORDINATOR / TRUST LEAD	TELEPHONE / EMAIL ADDRESS	INPATIENT SERVICES	GEOGRAPHICAL SERVICES
EASTERN	Royal Group of Hospitals Trust	Sharon Brown	(028) 90 633558 sharon.brown@royalhospitals.n-i.nhs.uk	Royal Jubilee Lagan Valley	North & West Belfast, South Belfast and Lisburn
	Ulster Community & Hospitals Trust	Alison Megarry	(028) 90564748 alison.megarry@ucht.n-i.nhs.uk	Ulster	North Down, Ards, East Belfast, Down and Castlereagh
	Mater Hospital Health & Social Services Trust	Jim Cassidy	(028) 90 802578 jim.cassidy@mater.n-i.nhs.uk	Mater	-
NORTHERN	United Hospitals Trust	Angela McKeown	(028) 25 635674 angela.mckeown@uh.n-i.nhs.uk	Antrim Area Causeway Mid Ulster	Northern Board area
SOUTHERN	Craigavon Area Hospital Group Trust	Wendy Webb	(028) 38 612168 wwebb@cahgt.n-i.nhs.uk	Craigavon Daisy Hill	Southern Board area
WESTERN	Sperrin Lakeland Health & Social Care Trust	Wendy Edwards	078 45071853 WEdwards@slt.n-i.nhs.uk	Altnagelvin Erne	Western Board area

