

Area: Health Services

Subject: HS35 – Hearing Screening

Reference: 1304.20 (b)(1)/CHDP Table 21.1

Policy: Obtain age appropriate hearing screening as age appropriate per Early Periodic Screening and Diagnostic Testing (EPSDT) guidelines within 45 calendar days of child's first day of enrollment. For all programs operating 90 days or less, hearing screening will be obtained within 30 days of child's enrollment.

Procedure:

1. Parent/Guardian to complete Consent form during application/enrollment.
Note: If Parent/Guardian refuses child hearing screening on Consent form, designated health staff will provide Parent/Guardian with health education/rationale for services. This will be documented in the Family Case Notes and communicated to the assigned Head Start Nurse so that on-site screening does not occur.
2. When physical results/medical records are received without documentation of hearing screening results, Designated Health Staff shall attempt to obtain results from the child's health care provider.
3. Children between the ages of 4-5+ years will be screened according to their EPSDT schedule.
4. When child has not been screened by his/her health care provider within the EPSDT guidelines/time frames, the Head Start Nurse will screen the child within 45 calendar days of enrollment (30 days for programs operating 90 days or less). If there are no results, or health care provider did not test child for any reason, the Head Start Nurse will proceed with OAE/Puretone screening instructions below:

Utilizing the OAE or Puretone Machine For Children Aged 3-5 Years:

5. Arrangements are made with Educators to set up date and time of screening.
6. Set-up hearing equipment in quiet location.
7. Pretest equipment before testing children.
8. Head Start Nurse will follow the facility's Active Supervision Plan and communicate clearly with Educators if screening is taking place out of visual range of Educators. The Head Start Nurse will communicate with Educators also when returning screened children to facility activities in order to account for every child during transition.
9. Re-screen failed first attempts within 2 weeks of initial test ("first attempt" is defined as child refusal or child did not pass screening).
10. For children who were not at the facility during screening attempts due to being absent, child will still need to be screened within 45 calendar days of enrollment (30 days for programs operating less than 90 days).
11. Parent/Guardian will be notified of each screening result utilizing one of the hearing screening forms based on type of screening tool used (e.g.: Puretone Machine, OAE, "Music to My Ears" Test kit).
12. Head Start Nurse will advise parent/guardian to follow up with child's health care provider if child has not passed after two screening attempts for additional testing/referrals.

13. Children who drop and re-enroll within the same program year do not need an additional screening, unless there is a new concern identified by the parent/guardian and/or Head Start staff. This will be documented in the Family Case Notes and Case Conferencing form. The Head Start Nurse will provide any follow-up/family support as needed.
14. Screening results will be documented on the front of the child's health file.
15. The Disabilities Supervisor will be notified in an e-mail of any child that is diagnosed with hearing loss or if the child has any underlying chronic health condition that impacts the child's ability to hear.

For Children Aged 0 – 2 Years:

16. Designated Health Staff shall review child physical and Health History to determine if "Well Baby Check" by medical provider has been completed. The results will be shared at Case Conference to determine if further assessments/referrals are needed or identified.
17. Designated Health Staff will update electronic tracking system at 1, 2, 4, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 24 months of age per child's EPSDT schedule. Head Start Nurse shall attempt to screen using the OAE machine if further hearing evaluations are needed based on family or Educator observations/concerns. Parent/Guardian will be notified of hearing results utilizing the OAE Screening Results form. Head Start Nurse will make appropriate referral based upon screening results.
18. The Disabilities Supervisor will be notified in an e-mail of any child that is diagnosed with hearing loss or if the child has any underlying chronic health condition that impacts the child's ability to hear.

Supervised by: Director of Health Services

Performed by: Head Start Nurses, Designated Health/Disabilities Staff

Forms needed: Physical Exam/Medical Records, Onsite Screening/Referral Forms, Health Cum Files, Electronic Tracking Reports, Consent form, Case Conferencing Forms, Family Case Notes

Frequency: Annually and/or as needed based on child EPSDT Schedule. Child may be rescreened throughout the program year if new concerns are identified.