

# Hearing Screening

## CHILD AND TEEN CHECKUPS (C&TC) FACT SHEET FOR PRIMARY CARE PROVIDERS

Review newborn hearing screen results at the initial visit. Hearing risk assessment or screening is required at all C&TC visits.

### C&TC standards

#### General

Providers must review newborn hearing screen results at the initial newborn C&TC visit.

Hearing **risk assessment** is required at all C&TC visits up to 3 years of age or until pure tone audiometry can be performed. Hearing **screening** is recommended at 3 years and required starting at age 4 and at ages indicated on the [C&TC Schedule of Age-Related Screening Standards](#).

#### Personnel

Trained clinic personnel may perform hearing screening. A licensed health care provider must interpret risk assessment and screening results and ensure appropriate follow-up: physician, nurse practitioner, physician assistant, or registered or public health nurse (RN, PHN) who has completed the C&TC Comprehensive Screening training through the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH).

#### Documentation

Document screening results and risk factors. Document the reason if pure tone audiometry is not performed at ages 4 years and older.

Refer to the documentation forms on the [C&TC Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment resources](#) webpage for documentation examples or to use as a template with your electronic medical record.

### Procedure

#### Review of newborn hearing screening

Review results of the newborn hearing screen and report follow-up results to the MDH Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program using the [Newborn Hearing Screening Outpatient Follow-Up Report Form](#). Refer to [Medical Home – Primary Care Providers](#).

#### Risk assessment

Perform a risk assessment to identify a child’s risk for hearing loss using the [Child and Family Hearing History and JCIH Risk Assessment Questionnaire](#).

#### Pure tone audiometry screening

##### Screen at these levels in each ear:

For ages 3 through 10	500 Hz at 25 dB AND 1000, 2000, and 4000 Hz at 20 dB
For ages 11 and older	500 Hz at 25 dB AND 1000, 2000, 4000, and 6000 Hz at 20 dB

Use otoacoustic emissions screening for children under 3 and as an alternative for children 3 to 5 who cannot perform pure tone audiometry.

Perform an [Environmental Noise Level Check](#) before screening. Annual calibration of audiometers is important for accurate and reliable results.

Refer to the [Hearing Screening Training Manual \(PDF\)](#).

## Referral and follow-up

The pure tone screening algorithm for clinics (page 28 of the [Hearing Screening Training Manual](#)) outlines recommended rescreening and referral guidelines. Prompt action and support yield optimal outcomes; the health care provider should actively facilitate follow-up testing and appropriate referrals (Bower et al., 2023).

## Importance of hearing screening

It is important to find children with late onset hearing loss. The estimated prevalence of childhood hearing loss rises between birth and the time children are of school age (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2025). Early identification, prompt referral and follow-up, and timely care and services can lead to better health and educational outcomes for children.

## Professional recommendations

### American Academy of Pediatrics

Pure tone audiometry screening is recommended beginning at 4 years (American Academy of Pediatrics, 2025).

## Minnesota Mandates

Newborn hearing screening is mandated by [Minnesota Statute § 144.966](#) and [Minnesota Statute §144.125-128](#).

## Resources

### Minnesota Department of Human Services

- [C&TC Schedule of Age-Related Screening Standards](#)
- [Minnesota Health Care Programs \(MHCP\) Provider Manual - C&TC Section](#)

### Minnesota Department of Health

- [Child and Teen Checkups \(C&TC\)](#)
- [Minnesota Early Hearing Detection and Intervention](#)

### Other resources

- [Early Childhood Hearing Screening](#)
- [Joint Committee on Infant Hearing](#)

## For more information

The Child and Teen Checkups (C&TC) program is administered through a partnership between the Minnesota Department of Human Services and the Minnesota Department of Health.

For questions about this fact sheet or to obtain this information in a different format, call 651-201-3650 or email [health.childteencheckups@state.mn.us](mailto:health.childteencheckups@state.mn.us).

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## Resource links

- [C&TC Schedule of Age-Related Screening Standards](https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfserver/Public/DHS-3379-ENG)  
(<https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfserver/Public/DHS-3379-ENG>)
- [C&TC Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment resources](https://mn.gov/dhs/partners-and-providers/policies-procedures/minnesota-health-care-programs/provider/types/ctc-resources)  
(<https://mn.gov/dhs/partners-and-providers/policies-procedures/minnesota-health-care-programs/provider/types/ctc-resources>)
- [Newborn Hearing Screening Outpatient Follow-Up Report Form](https://www.health.state.mn.us/people/newbornscreening/materials/clinichearingform.pdf)  
(<https://www.health.state.mn.us/people/newbornscreening/materials/clinichearingform.pdf>)
- [Medical Home – Primary Care Providers](https://www.health.state.mn.us/people/childrenyouth/improveehdi/medhome.html)  
(<https://www.health.state.mn.us/people/childrenyouth/improveehdi/medhome.html>)
- [Child and Family Hearing History and JCIH Risk Assessment Questionnaire](https://www.health.state.mn.us/docs/people/childrenyouth/ctc/hearingscreen/riskassessmentjcih.pdf)  
(<https://www.health.state.mn.us/docs/people/childrenyouth/ctc/hearingscreen/riskassessmentjcih.pdf>)
- [Environmental Noise Level Check](https://www.health.state.mn.us/docs/people/childrenyouth/ctc/hearingscreen/environmentalnoiselevelcheck.pdf)  
(<https://www.health.state.mn.us/docs/people/childrenyouth/ctc/hearingscreen/environmentalnoiselevelcheck.pdf>)
- [Hearing Screening Training Manual](https://www.health.state.mn.us/docs/people/childrenyouth/ctc/hearingscreen/hrscreenmanual.pdf)  
(<https://www.health.state.mn.us/docs/people/childrenyouth/ctc/hearingscreen/hrscreenmanual.pdf>)
- [Hearing Screening Training Manual, page 28](https://www.health.state.mn.us/docs/people/childrenyouth/ctc/hearingscreen/hrscreenmanual.pdf#page=33)  
(<https://www.health.state.mn.us/docs/people/childrenyouth/ctc/hearingscreen/hrscreenmanual.pdf#page=33>)
- [Minnesota Statute § 144.966](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=144.966)  
(<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=144.966>)
- [Minnesota Statute §144.125-128](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=144.125)  
(<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=144.125>)

- [C&TC Schedule of Age-Related Screening Standards](https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfserver/Public/DHS-3379-ENG)  
(<https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfserver/Public/DHS-3379-ENG>)
- [Minnesota Health Care Programs \(MHCP\) Provider Manual - C&TC Section](http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET_DYNAMIC_CONVERSION&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=dhs16_150092)  
([www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET\\_DYNAMIC\\_CONVERSION&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=dhs16\\_150092](http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET_DYNAMIC_CONVERSION&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=dhs16_150092))
- [Child and Teen Checkups \(C&TC\)](http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/cfh/program/ctc/index.cfm)  
([www.health.state.mn.us/divs/cfh/program/ctc/index.cfm](http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/cfh/program/ctc/index.cfm))
- [Minnesota Early Hearing Detection and Intervention](https://www.health.mn.gov/improveEhdi)  
(<https://www.health.mn.gov/improveEhdi>)
- [Early Childhood Hearing Screening](http://www.infanthearing.org/earlychildhood/index.html)  
(<http://www.infanthearing.org/earlychildhood/index.html>)
- [Joint Committee on Infant Hearing](http://www.jcih.org/)  
(<http://www.jcih.org/>)

## References

- American Academy of Pediatrics (2025, February). *Recommendations for preventive pediatric health care*. Retrieved from [https://downloads.aap.org/AAP/PDF/periodicity\\_schedule.pdf](https://downloads.aap.org/AAP/PDF/periodicity_schedule.pdf)
- Bower, C., Kip Reilly, B., Richerson, J., Hecht, J. L., Committee on Practice and Ambulatory Medicine, & Section on Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery (2023). Hearing assessment in infants, children, and adolescents: Recommendations beyond neonatal screening. *Pediatrics*, 152(3). <https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2023-063288>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2025, January). *Data and statistics about hearing loss in children*. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/hearing-loss-children/data/>