

YOUR INFANT'S NEWBORN HEARING SCREEN

In the fall of 2000, Naval Hospital Camp Lejeune instituted a universal newborn hearing screen program. This program allows the staff to screen all infants for hearing impairment prior to discharge. The screen will be performed in the treatment room, located on the same floor you are staying on, while your baby is quiet or asleep. A corpsman or a nurse will perform the screen.



Depending on the baby's activity the screen can take 10-30 minutes to complete. It is a non-invasive procedure called Automated Brainstem Evoked Response (ABER). Special earphones deliver soft clicks to each of the baby's ears from the hearing machine. Sticker-like electrodes are placed on the baby's forehead, back of the neck, and shoulder. These electrodes pick up brainwave responses to the clicks and send them to the machine from automatic analysis. The results of the screen are reported to you when your baby is returned to your room.



Results of the screen are either PASS or REFER. A PASS indicates your baby's hearing is normal for speech and language development. A REFER result indicates further screening is needed and the test will be performed again before leaving the hospital. It does not mean that your baby has a hearing impairment. If your baby does REFER on the final screen, you will need to bring your baby back for additional screening after you are discharged from the hospital. The hearing screen coordinator will call you to set up an appointment.



Hearing screens are a required test in the state of North Carolina. However, you may request that your baby not be screened. If you decide to decline the screen you will need to sign a waiver stating that you are aware of the importance of early impairment identification and you fully accept responsibility for not having your baby's hearing screen performed.