



TOBY DOUGLAS  
DIRECTOR

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency  
Department of Health Care Services



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
GOVERNOR

November 1, 2011

**TO: HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATORS AND NEWBORN HEARING  
SCREENING PROGRAM (NHSP) DIRECTORS**

**SUBJECT: NHSP EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS**

The California Newborn Hearing Screening Program Inpatient Infant Hearing Screening Provider Standards clearly define requirements for NHSP equipment. The following excerpts from the Standards (section 3.42.1 C.2) address equipment calibration and disposable components.

*d. Use of screening equipment shall be in accordance with manufacturer's protocols and stated norms.*

*f. Equipment and all related components shall be calibrated in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendation and a log shall be kept documenting the dates of calibration, repair or replacement of parts.*

*g. Disposable components of the equipment shall not be reused.*

The majority of manufacturers recommend annual calibration for hearing screening equipment. As you are aware, the purpose of calibration is to ensure the accuracy of the measurements made by the machine. Equipment that is not calibrated regularly may produce signals that are louder or softer than intended. This could result in infants with hearing loss passing the hearing screening or over-referring babies who should have passed.

Re-using disposable components compromises the integrity of the testing. Disposable parts used multiple times may not fit as well as they did originally or may not adhere to the skin, depending on the type. Obviously, disposable components used on multiple babies pose an infection control risk.

Hospitals are the responsible party for all aspects of the hearing screening program, including responsibility for ensuring ongoing compliance with equipment requirements, even when contracted screening providers are used. In order to minimize any medico-legal risks, it is recommended that hospitals verify with their contractors that all

Hospital Administrators and Newborn Hearing Screening Program Directors  
Page 2  
November 1, 2011

maintenance and calibration requirements are up to date and that disposable components are used appropriately.

If you have questions about the NHSP or equipment, please contact the Hearing Coordination Center in your region via 1-877-388-5301 and chose option 1.

Sincerely,

**ORIGINAL SIGNED BY DR. ROBERT DIMAND**

Robert Dimand, M.D.  
Chief Medical Officer  
Children's Medical Services