



## NEWBORN HEARING SCREENING



**Deidré Stroebel**  
Audiologist and Speech Pathologist



# NEWBORN HEARING SCREENING



## INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

### Panorama

Office hours:  
Mon - Thurs 8:00 - 17:00  
Fri 8:00 - 14:30  
Tel: 021 930 3136  
Fax: 021 930 3144

### Bellville

Office hours:  
Mon - Thurs 8:00 - 17:00  
Fri 8:00 - 14:30  
Tel: 021 948 6611  
Fax: 021 945 2589

### Milnerton

Office hours:  
Mon - Thurs 8:00 - 17:00  
Fri 8:00 - 14:30  
Tel: 021 552 4943  
Fax: 021 552 4944

[www.deidrestroebel.co.za](http://www.deidrestroebel.co.za)

### DO YOU KNOW ...

... that your baby's hearing can be checked even before leaving the hospital? The newborn hearing screening (NHS) test helps to identify babies who have permanent hearing loss as early as possible. This means parents can get the support and advice they need, and baby can get help right from the start.

Contact us today for more information or to make an appointment.

CONTACT [info@deidrestroebel.co.za](mailto:info@deidrestroebel.co.za)



LEARN MORE



## WHAT IS NHS?

Hearing loss is invisible and impossible to identify through routine clinical examinations. Therefore, NHS is necessary to identify babies who might be born with a hearing loss and who require further testing. The NHS test is non-invasive, pain free and is easily and quickly measured. It is highly recommended that all newborns have their hearing screened before they are six weeks old, preferably before they leave the hospital after birth.

## WHY IS NHS IMPORTANT?

Hearing loss is the most common congenital condition, affecting 3 to 6 babies per 1000. Hearing loss will negatively affect a baby's development. Fortunately if the hearing loss is identified early and intervention is implemented, babies with hearing loss have excellent outcomes and are likely to reach their full potential. A NHS test is necessary to determine if a baby might have a hearing loss which would otherwise go undetected. Without NHS, hearing loss is typically detected only after one year of age which results in a language and developmental delay.

## WHEN IS NHS DONE?

A NHS program is managed and implemented by the practice of Deidré Stroebel Inc. in this hospital. The program is supported and encouraged by all hospital and medical personnel, including Paediatricians.

 Before you are discharged you will be visited by a NHS professional and offered a NHS test for your baby. Should you give informed consent, a case history will be conducted and you will sign a consent form.

 The NHS test cost is not included in the hospital birthing package and is billed separately. The account will be sent to your medical aid for your convenience, however, should the NHS test cost not be covered by your medical aid, you will be responsible for the payment of the account. Please

contact your medical aid prior to the NHS test if you are unsure of the cost coverage (codes: 821011 & 821580; ICD10 code: Z00.1; practice number: 8209081).

 The NHS test is typically conducted on baby the day you are discharged in your presence at your bedside, or in the nursery.

 The results will be discussed with you immediately following the test and will be recorded in the hospital infant register and on a sticker in your baby's clinic booklet.

 Your baby can still develop a permanent hearing loss after the NHS test. It is important that all babies return for a follow-up re-test when they are one year old. Please arrange this appointment yourself. If you are concerned about your baby's hearing and/or language development, do not hesitate to return sooner.

 Please contact us to arrange an appointment if your baby did not undergo NHS in hospital.

## HOW IS NHS PERFORMED?

The NHS test can only be performed in a quiet room, when baby is sleeping or calm. An objective automated otoacoustic emission test is used. A small soft-tipped earpiece is placed in your baby's ears and soft clicking sounds are then played. Your baby does not have to react or respond. When the ear receives sound, the hair cells in the inner ear, called the cochlea, respond and cochlear echoes are emitted which can be picked up by the NHS test equipment.

The results of the NHS test are indicated as follows: (See table on the right)

| RESULT                    | PASS                                        | REFER   |
|---------------------------|--|--|
| <b>INTERPRETATION</b>     | The inner ear response to sound is appropriate in both ears and your baby is unlikely to have a permanent severe hearing loss. | The response of the inner ear in one or both ears is inadequate to pass the NHS test. This may or may not indicate a hearing loss. This result indicates that baby is referred for further testing. A "refer" test result can be obtained because of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● There is temporary fluid in the middle ear or blockage in the ear canal due to the birthing process</li> <li>● There is a permanent hearing loss</li> </ul> |
| <b>FOLLOW-UP SCHEDULE</b> | A follow-up re-test is recommended at <b>one year</b> of age to monitor hearing. Please arrange this appointment yourself.     | A follow-up re-test is recommended in <b>two to six weeks</b> in order to repeat the NHS test. Please arrange this appointment yourself. It is very important that you attend this appointment in case your baby does have a permanent hearing loss.   |

Please feel free to contact us should you require any additional information.