

September 2000 (Reviewed and updated: 01/31/2003)

# Whatcom County Child Health Notes

Whatcom County Child Health Notes is distributed by Whatcom County Health and Human Services / Children with Special Health Care Needs. This newsletter is intended to provide physicians and nurse practitioners with current information regarding identification and management of special needs conditions. Contributing agencies and programs include: Washington State Department of Health - Children With Special Health Care Needs Program (Contract #N08400), University of Washington - Center on Human Development and Disability, Whatcom County Medical Home Training and Resource Project, the Whatcom County Interagency Coordinating Council, and the Whatcom County Parent to Parent Support Group. Additional Child Health Notes are available at <http://depts.washington.edu/medhome>

## Whatcom County Resources include:

### **St Joseph Hospital Newborn Nursery**

For information, contact:

Director of Maternal Infant Services:

(360) 738-6704

2901 Squalicum Parkway

Bellingham, WA 98225

### **Western Washington University Hearing Clinic**

For information, contact:

Carol C. McRandle, Director of

Audiology (360) 650-3206,

[mcrandle@cc.wvu.edu](mailto:mcrandle@cc.wvu.edu)

## Washington State Resources include:

### **Children's Hospital & Regional Medical Center Audiology Clinic**

(206) 528-5173; Fax (206) 527-3878

P.O. Box C-5371, MS CH-78

4800 Sandpoint Way, NE

Seattle, WA 98105

Children identified with bilateral hearing loss are eligible for early intervention services through the **Early Childhood Home Instruction Program (ECHI):**

(206) 528-2712

P.O. Box 5371

4800 Sand Point Way N.E.,

Seattle, WA 98105

Internet resources are listed on reverse side

## **Universal Infant Hearing Screening in Whatcom County**

**National studies** have demonstrated that automated hearing screening of all infants can dramatically improve identification of congenital hearing loss, reducing the average age of diagnosis from 18 - 24 months to less than 6 months.

In September 1999, St. Joseph Hospital became the first community hospital in Washington State to provide hearing screening as a part of the routine care in the newborn nursery. In addition, St. Joseph Hospital offers hearing screening on an outpatient basis for infants under one month of age with the goal that all infants born and/or residing in Whatcom County have access to hearing screening.

**Automated hearing screening** may include testing otoacoustic emissions (OAE) and / or auditory brainstem response (ABR). St. Joseph's nursery protocols for newborn hearing screening include a three step process:

- 🔔 All infants have otoacoustic emissions (OAE) screening unless this is declined by parent/guardian.
- 🔔 Infants who do not pass initial screening are scheduled for rescreening by otoacoustic emissions (OAE) and / or auditory brainstem response (ABR) as an outpatient procedure within two weeks of discharge.
- 🔔 Infants not passing the second screening procedure are referred to Western Washington University (WWU) Hearing Clinic for diagnostic testing. Infants who require sedation are referred to Children's Hospital and Regional Medical Center Audiology Clinic.

Infants may also be referred to WWU Speech and Hearing Clinic for hearing risk factors including:

- 🔔 Family history of congenital hearing loss
- 🔔 Medical conditions associated with hearing problems
- 🔔 History of treatment with ototoxic medications

*A brochure on infant hearing screening is provided.*

## **National / Internet Resources:**

- 🔔 Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing: [www.agbell.org](http://www.agbell.org)
- 🔔 American Academy of Otolaryngology: [www.entnet.org](http://www.entnet.org)
- 🔔 Center for Hearing Loss in Children: [www.boystown.org/chlc/](http://www.boystown.org/chlc/)
- 🔔 Pediatric Database (PEDBASE): [www.icondata.com/health/pedbase/files/HEARINGL](http://www.icondata.com/health/pedbase/files/HEARINGL)
- 🔔 Universal Newborn Hearing Screening Resource Center: [www.infanthearing.org](http://www.infanthearing.org)
- 🔔 Where Do We Go from Hear: [www.gohear.org](http://www.gohear.org)

**Where to Start:** Links to local, regional and internet resources

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