The Maryland Infant Hearing Screening Database Facilitates Timely Follow Up, Intervention and Documentation

Susan Panny, MD, FAAP, Chapter EHDI Champion

At present, the most significant problem encountered by Early Hearing Detection and Intervention programs nationally is lack of documentation. EHDI programs across the country manage to screen almost all babies but documentation of follow up is lacking for almost 45% of babies who do not pass the initial screening and documentation of intervention services is lacking in almost 25% of babies with documented hearing loss. The EHDI program strives to have every baby screened by one month of age, to have every baby with physiological indications of hearing loss definitively worked up by 3 months of age and to have every baby with hearing loss in appropriate intervention services by 6 months of age. In addition, babies with risk factors for later onset hearing loss need longer term follow up. Adequate documentation of all steps of the process for each baby is essential to assuring that all babies receive the services they need in the appropriate time frame. The availability of individual patient level data on all babies, in one place, in a standard format, that can be accessed at all times by all of a baby's providers can facilitate this process and make it easier for pediatricians to care for individual patients.

Last summer when the MD-AAP Chapter membership was surveyed as to their EHDI related needs and educational preferences, the need for an accessible database was frequently expressed in the comments section. The Maryland Infant Hearing Program at the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene obtained a federal grant to improve its database and make it accessible to pediatricians and other providers. The enhanced database is an OZ eSP system: a real time, on-line, HIPAA compliant, secure password protected, tiered access, multiple user database. All of a baby's providers can access the baby's hearing screening history, if they become registered database users.

The hospital of birth enters the demographic data on the baby and the hearing screening test results. The hospitals are very reliable in entering this data. When the hospital lists you as the baby's pediatrician, if you are a registered user you have immediate and automatic access to that baby's data. You can only access data on your patients. If you are not listed as the pediatrician by the hospital you (your office) must call the Infant Hearing Screening Program (410-767-6730) and have the baby registered to your practice. Your practice can count on having the baby's hearing screening results before the first visit. Your practice can, not only access the baby's file but is encouraged to update name/ demographics and add your follow up plan. If you refer the baby for re-screening or definitive evaluation, the audiology practice (or other consultant) will enter the data on the baby's visit, including test results. This makes it much easier for the pediatrician to follow up: to find out if the family followed through with the referral and to get diagnostic test results. The audiology practices are quite good about entering the diagnostic and follow up data and are rapidly becoming even better- so it really works. The pediatric practice can then enter their referrals for intervention services. However, like any other tool, the database can only help with patient care if pediatricians use it!

How do you become a registered Infant Hearing Screening Database user? It's easy! You fill out the registration form below and send it by E-mail to Erin Filippone, the Infant Hearing Screening Program audiologist at: erin.filippone@maryland.gov   or fax it to her at: 410-333-5047. You can also use the web-based registration form at: http://www.oz-systems.com/marketing/PCP_registration_form.pdf

Mrs. Filippone will be happy to answer questions by E-mail or phone: 410-767-6762. Once she has your registration form, Mrs. Filippone will assign you and your office personnel a username/ password and provide instructions on using the database. There is an on line tutorial / training site on the use of the database at: https://ozsystems.webex.com/ozsystems/lsr.php?AT=pb&SP=MC&rID=61089872&rKey=876 792263f69c033 The registration process doesn't take much time and your practice can start using the database within a week. The Infant Hearing Screening Program can only grant access to practices with a licensed health professional but realizes that the pediatrician does not have the time to access the database personally for every baby. Each practice should decide on its designated users and select a primary contact person. Your trusted office staff can become registered users under the practices licensed health professionals. When filling out the registration form for your practice, please remember to list your primary contact person as user #1. Pediatricians working in a hospital setting can become registered users under the hospital's registration, or as independent practices, as is most appropriate to their situation.

PLEASE RETURN THE COMPLETED FORM TO:

BY E-MAIL

erin.filippone@maryland.gov

BY FAX:

410-333-5047

BY MAIL

Maryland Infant Hearing Screening Program
Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
201 West Preston Street
Room 424
Baltimore, MD 21201

Attn: Ms. Erin Filippone
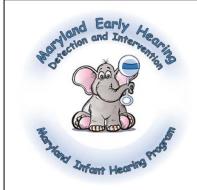   Infant Hearing Screening Program Audiologist.

FOR QUESTIONS:

- Phone: (410)-767-6730 and ask for Mrs. Filippone or another program staff member
- E-mail: erin.filippone@maryland.gov

PLEASE REMEMBER:

Contact Mrs, Filippone after she receives the form to get your user ID and password and a tutorial on the database

MEDICAL HOME REGISTRATION

MD EHDI Online Data Management
OZ Systems eSP™

1-3-6
screened by 1 month, diagnosed by 3 months, intervention by 6

Practice Name: _____

Address: _____
       street addr   **suite number**

_____
       city   **state**   **zip code**

Tel: _____ **Fax:** _____ **Email:** _____

Individual Users: **please make your site's primary contact person User #1**

1. ** _____
    name   **position/license # if applicable**   **tel extension or email addr**

2. _____
    name   **position/license # if applicable**   **tel extension or email addr**

3. _____
    name   **position/license # if applicable**   **tel extension or email addr**

4. _____
    name   **position/license # if applicable**   **tel extension or email addr**

5. _____
    name   **position/license # if applicable**   **tel extension or email addr**

Please return this form to Erin Filippone: fax: 410-333-5047 or   email: erin.filippone@maryland.gov