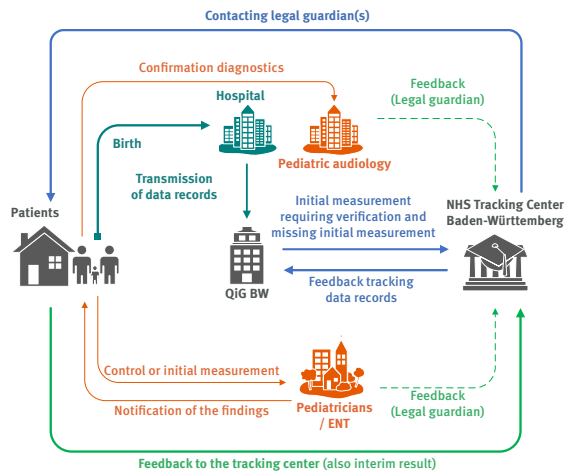


Tracking for newborn hearing screening

What happens with the data?

The maternity clinic transmits encrypted **examination results for newborn hearing screening** to Qualitätssicherung im Gesundheitswesen Baden-Württemberg GmbH (QiG BW GmbH) in Stuttgart. Only if the examination results of your child transmitted by the maternity clinic are missing or require checking will **additional personal identifying data of the mother and your child be transmitted to QiG BW GmbH and encrypted in such a way that they cannot be viewed by QiG BW GmbH**. The data described above is transmitted in encrypted form by QiG BW GmbH to the tracking center for newborn hearing screening in Heidelberg.

The personal data of the mother and child transmitted by QiG BW GmbH **can only be decrypted and viewed by the tracking center** and will only be used to contact you (letters, telephone calls) as part of the tracking process. The above personal data will not be used for any purpose other than that stated and will not be passed on to third parties. Only authorized employees of the tracking center in Heidelberg have access to this personal data. The employees are of course bound by confidentiality. Once tracking has been completed, the examination results of the newborn hearing screening or confirmation diagnostics (confirmation examination) of the child are returned to QiG BW GmbH in encrypted form. See the following graphic for more information:



The personally identifiable data of the mother and child is deleted 12 months after the end of tracking at the tracking center in Heidelberg. The pseudonymized data at QiG BW GmbH and the tracking center in Heidelberg will then be deleted 10 years after the tracking has been completed.

You have the right to request information about your child's stored personal data from the responsible parties at any time (see below). You can also request the correction of inaccurate data, the deletion of data, or the restriction of its processing.

Participation is voluntary and is funded by the statutory health insurance funds and the state of Baden-Württemberg. This means that both tracking and hearing screening are free of charge for you.

We therefore recommend that you take advantage of this free service for your child to give them a good start in life.

Universal newborn hearing screening Tracking Center Baden- Württemberg

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Further information on data collection and processing within QiG BW GmbH is available at: www.qigbw.de
e-mail: datenschutz@qigbw.de

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Baden-Württemberg

MINISTRY FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS, HEALTH AND INTEGRATION



HEIDELBERG
UNIVERSITY
HOSPITAL



Baden-Württemberg

Parent information sheet

TRACKING FOR NEWBORN
HEARING SCREENING



English

Status June 2025

Dear Parents,

The birth of your child is still ahead of you or right behind you. We wish you all the best for your child.

Why is hearing screening useful?

Out of every 1,000 children, 2-3 are born with a hearing impairment that requires treatment. Hearing loss that is not diagnosed at an early stage can have a negative impact on overall development: In addition to impaired speech development, psychosocial and intellectual development can also be affected. The first months of life are particularly important for hearing development. The longer the hearing loss remains undetected, the more difficult it becomes for the child to catch up on the delay in language development. Early detection of hearing impairment allows modern hearing-aid technology and early support to greatly improve a child's start in life.

How is newborn hearing screening carried out?

Two measurement methods are available to assess a newborn's hearing ability:

Otoacoustic emissions (OAE)

During the measurement, an earplug with a small probe is carefully inserted into the outer ear canal. It emits a soft 'click' sound, which causes the sensory cells in the inner ear to respond with vibrations that are recorded by a microphone on the probe. If a response is detected, the middle ear and cochlea are working properly.

Automated brainstem audiometry (AABR)

In this test, the brain's responses to a probe tone are measured. To perform this measurement, electrodes are either attached to the forehead, neck, and cheekbones, or the built-in electrodes of the screening device are used. As with the OAE measurement, soft "click" noises are sent to the ear. The electrodes measure whether the sound waves are transmitted to the brain as electrical impulses and processed. If this reaction can be measured, the middle ear, cochlea, auditory nerve and lower part of the auditory pathway are functional.

Is the examination stressful?

During the hearing screening, your child will undergo one of these two testing methods. The examination is easiest to carry out when the baby has been drinking and is asleep. It takes a few minutes and is completely painless and in no way stressful for your baby.

What does the hearing screening test result mean?

An unremarkable result means that a hearing impairment has been largely ruled out. However, a hearing impairment can also occur in the course of a child's development, for example due to repeated middle ear infections in infancy. Thus, following a normal screening result, parents should still observe and ensure that their child's hearing develops properly.

An abnormal or inconclusive result initially requires a prompt repeat measurement.

Very few children screened as abnormal or requiring follow-up actually have a hearing impairment. This is partly due to the evaluation method, which is designed to ensure that no child needing treatment is overlooked, even if that means some children who can hear will need a follow-up examination, and partly due to 'obstacles' during the examination of newborns (e.g., vernix in the ear canal or amniotic fluid in the middle ear). Only about 1 child out of 30 to 40 children detected in the screening actually has a hearing impairment.

"In the case of a repeatedly abnormal result, we strongly recommend a confirmatory examination by a specialist within four weeks. They will carry out further examinations that will give you certainty about your child's hearing and can initiate any necessary treatment immediately.

Can hearing disorders in newborns be treated?

If a newborn hearing impairment is detected during further examinations, it cannot be cured in most cases, but it can be treated effectively. The earlier the treatments are carried out, the more effective they are.

Tracking for newborn hearing screening

By tracking missing and abnormal test results, it is ensured that a final diagnosis is made in a timely manner.

The tracking center contacts the parents to clarify the status of the examinations. Tracking is continued until a final result is reached. In this way, treatment for a potential hearing loss can be started promptly. Tracking is voluntary and complements the hearing screening examination. The transfer of personal data for tracking to QiG BW GmbH requires the consent of at least one parent or legal guardian.

Data collection and processing

For conducting tracking in the newborn hearing screening, providing the personally identifiable data of the mother and child is a basic requirement. Tracking cannot be carried out without this information and your (or a legal guardian's) consent for data transfer. Further information on data collection and processing can be found in the data protection information attached to the consent form.

Which data are collected?

This primarily concerns the results of your child's newborn hearing screening (left ear: normal/abnormal; right ear: normal/abnormal) as well as the personally identifiable information of the mother (name, address, phone) and the child (name, date of birth). If the legal guardian differs from the mother, the data of this person (last name, first name, address, phone number) are also collected. The entire data set can be viewed on the homepage of QiG BW GmbH (www.qigbw.de) under Regional procedure ► QS UNHS BW.