Newborn hearing screener

Newborn hearing screeners work as members of a team in neonatal units, postnatal wards and in hospitals and clinics. They are involved in identifying which babies need testing and explain the screening procedure.

This page has information on the role of the newborn hearing screener, including entry requirements and skills needed.

Working life

All new parents are offered a hearing screening test in the first few weeks after their baby is born.

Newborn hearing screeners:

- make sure the equipment is working
- identify which babies need testing
- explain the screening procedure to parents
- use equipment to screen babies
- give the parent or guardian the screening results and explain what happens next
- input the results onto a computer system
As a newborn hearing screener, you'll work as part of the audiology team with healthcare scientists, neonatal nurses, GPs and health visitors. You may work in neonatal units, postnatal wards or clinics. You will have a lot of contact with parents and their babies.

Entry requirements

There are no set entry requirements for newborn hearing screeners. Employers expect a good standard of numeracy and literacy and may ask for GCSEs or equivalent. They may ask for a nursery nursing or child-care related qualification, such as NNEB, BTEC or vocational qualification.

Employers usually ask for experience of working with children and families. They may also ask for experience of working with deaf people. This can be either or paid or voluntary work.
You will have a lot of contact with parents and their babies.

**Personal characteristics and skills needed**

As a newborn hearing screener, you need to be:

- happy to handle newborn babies
- calm and reassuring
- able to explain procedures to parents
- willing to work with people from all walks of life
- able to work as part of a team but use their initiative
- able to follow instructions
- able to use equipment

You'll also need:

- very good communication skills
- good customer care skills
- organisational skills

**Training and development**

You will be given the training you need for the job including how to use the equipment, health and safety and child protection. Newborn hearing screeners can join the British Society of Audiology (BSA) as associate members. The BSA offers conferences and meetings where hearing screeners can update their skills and network with others working in the field.

- **Pay and conditions** Expand / Collapse
  Clinical support staff working in the NHS are paid on the Agenda for Change (AfC) pay system. As a newborn hearing screener you will typically be on AfC band 3. As a healthcare It may be possible to apply for more senior positions - eg as an assistant practitioner [9], after further training and experience. Newborn hearing screeners work standard hours of around 37.5 a week. Some may work shifts, which could involve nights, early starts, evenings and weekends. Terms and conditions will usually be different for clinical support staff working outside of the NHS.

- **Where the role can lead** Expand / Collapse
  You could become a newborn screening coordinator, supervising and organising the work of a team of screeners.

  You could move into other jobs in the wider healthcare team or with the appropriate qualifications for entry to university, you could apply to train as a healthcare professional, such as a midwife [10] or nurse [11] or as an audiologist [2],[12]

- **Job market and vacancies** Expand / Collapse
Most NHS trusts advertise their vacancies on NHS Jobs [13]. Some advertise on their own websites. You can find a list of NHS organisations on NHS Choices [14].

If you're applying for a role either directly in the NHS or in an organisation that provides NHS services, you'll be asked to show how you think the NHS values apply in your everyday work.

Find out more about NHS values [15].

- Further information Expand / Collapse
  - British Academy of Audiology [16]
  - British Society of Audiology [6]
  - NHS Newborn Screening Programme [17]

Other roles that may interest you

- Audiology [2]
- Experienced paramedic [18]
- Emergency care assistant [19]
- Clinical informatics [20]

Source URL: https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/wider-healthcare-team/roles-wider-healthcare-team/clinical-support-staff/newborn-hearing-screener

Links
[1] https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#Neonatal
[8] https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#AfC