



The Role of Midwives in Newborn Hearing Screening  
November 14, 2011



# What are we going to hear about?



- Importance of newborn hearing screening
- Methods of screening newborn hearing
- Protocol for follow-up for babies who don't pass
- Genetic factors related to hearing loss
- Impact of hearing loss on language development
- Early intervention options
- Patient-education resources

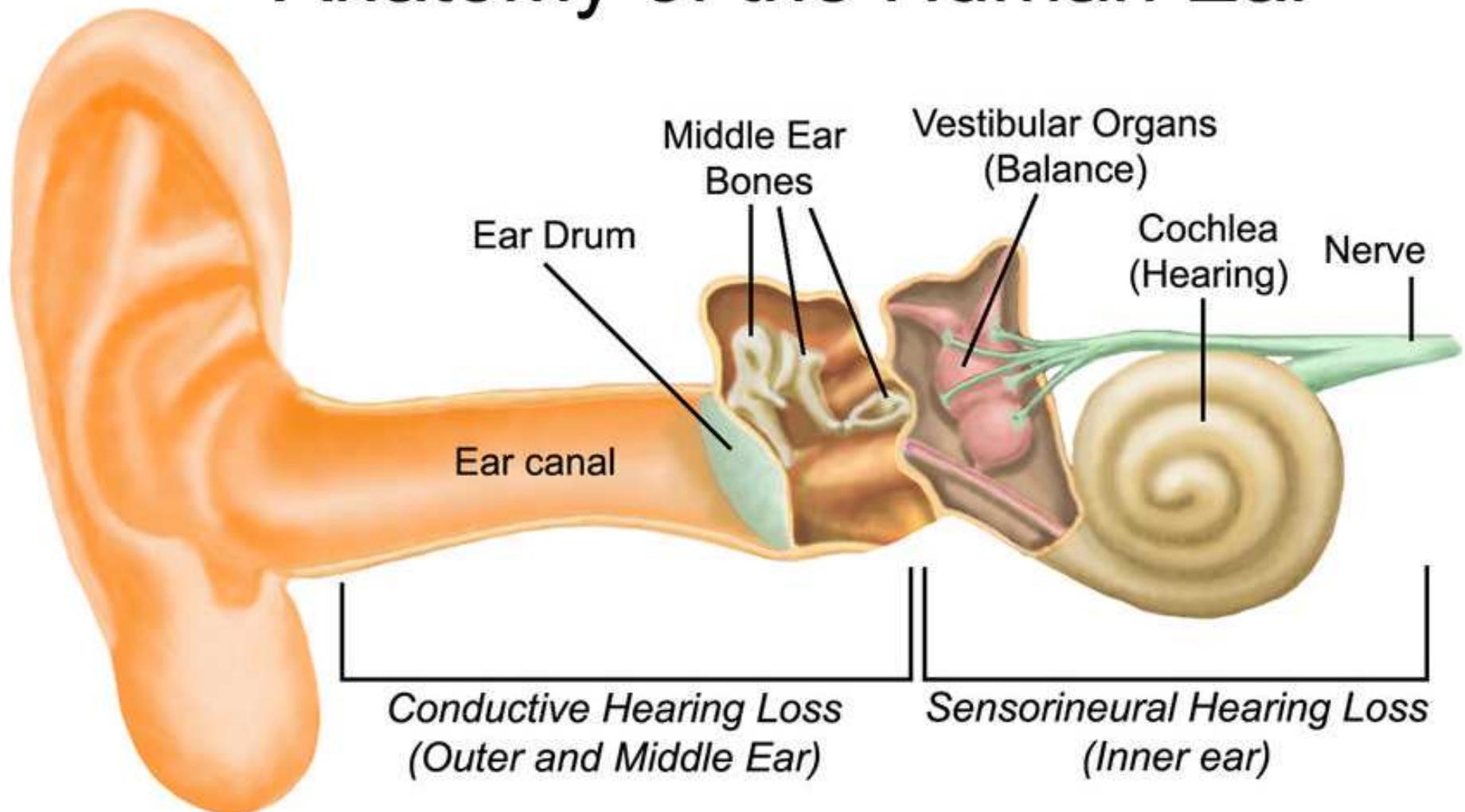
# What's all the fuss about?

- It's the law
- Most frequent birth defect
- Late detection has serious negative consequences
- Dramatic benefits with early identification
- Tremendous progress
- Room for more progress



# What's going on in there?

## Anatomy of the Human Ear



# How is hearing screened?

## ABR

- 10-20 minutes
- Uses headphones
- Sensors placed on body
- Measures brain's response to sound
- Less impacted by fluid in ears
- Equipment more expensive
- Reimbursement rate higher
- Recommended method for preemies, NICU babies, and when there is a family history of hearing loss

## OAE

- 5 minutes
- Uses probes in ears
- No sensors
- Measures cochlea's response to sound
- Fluid in ears interferes
- Equipment less expensive
- Reimbursement rate lower

# What if baby doesn't pass?



- Results reported to state
- 2nd screening is needed
- Evaluation if fail 2<sup>nd</sup> screening
- Phone calls and letters from state office
- Follow-up until normal hearing or confirmed hearing loss

# Who does hearing screenings?

- All birthing facilities
- Pediatric audiologists
  - CMS approved
- Some CMS Offices
  - Ft. Pierce
  - Tallahassee
  - Pensacola
  - Marathon
  - Orlando
  - Miami
  - Gainesville
  - Tampa
  - Naples



# Can genes cause hearing loss?

- 50% due to genetics
- Many don't have outward physical characteristics
- Often present when no one else in family has hearing loss
- A few associated syndromes:
  - Alport
  - Usher
  - Treacher Collins
  - Waardenburg
  - Pendred
- Nonsyndromic
  - Connexin 26
- Refer to geneticist before or after birth if parents have questions



# Why such a rush?

Goals:

- Screen by 1 month
- Diagnose by 3 months
- Services by 6 months

Early speech and language skills are needed for success in school and life.



# What can be done after a hearing loss is detected?

## Early Steps



- Serves birth-three
- Funds for services and technology that insurance companies deny
- Speech Therapists and Hearing Specialists available
- Services provided in natural environment
- No income eligibility requirement
- Services for other developmental conditions
- Call 1-800-654-4440 to refer

# How can I spread the word?

## Publications

[Newborn Screening-An Important Beginning brochures](#)

[You Baby Needs another Hearing Test brochures](#)

[Hearing Milestone magnets](#)

## Websites:

<http://www.doh.state.fl.us/cms/nbscreen-hearing.html>

[www.infanthearing.org](http://www.infanthearing.org)

[www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/ehdi](http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/ehdi)



# Who do I contact for more training or questions?



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# Questions

