Historical Moments in Newborn Hearing Screening

1965 - Babbidge Report (Report to the Secretary of HEW). 1
- Recommended the development and nationwide implementation of "universally applied procedures for early identification and evaluation of hearing impairment."

1967 - Recommendations from the National Conference on Education of the Deaf 2
- High-risk register to facilitate identification.
- Public information campaign.
- Testing of infants and children 5-12 months of age should be investigated.

1988- Commission on Education of the Deaf 3
- Reported the average age of identification for profoundly deaf children in the US was 2 1/2 years.

1988 - An advisory group of national experts convened by the U.S. Department of Education and Bureau of Maternal and Child Health for the purpose of advising the government about the feasibility of developing guidelines on early identification. 4
- Recommended that the federal government fund demonstration projects to expand and document systematically the cost efficiency of proven techniques already in existence but infrequently used.

1988- Former Surgeon General C. Everett Koop issued a challenge 5
- That by the year 2000, 90% of children with significant hearing loss be identified by 12 months of age.

1990- Joint Committee on Infant Hearing (JCIH)- Position Statement 6
- Recommended that high-risk infants be screened prior to their discharge from the hospital and no later than 3 months after their birth.

1990 - Healthy People 2000 7
- Goal: To reduce the average age at which children with significant hearing impairment are identified to no more than 12 months by year 2000.

1993- National Institutes of Health(NIH) Consensus Development Program 8
- Recommended all newborns be screened for hearing loss before leaving the hospital.

1994- The JCIH Position statement 9
- Recommended that "all infants with hearing loss should be identified before 3 months of age and receive intervention by 6 months of age."

1999- The American Academy of Pediatrics endorses:10
• Universal newborn hearing screening.
• Detection of hearing loss before three months of age.
• Intervention services initiated by six months of age.

2000- The JCIH Year 2000 Position Statement
• Principles and Guidelines for Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Programs.

References


11) Joint Committee on Infant Hearing. 2000 position statement