

Why should I order a CMV test on a baby who has referred on his/her newborn hearing screen (NHS)?

By referring his/her NHS, this baby has been identified as high risk for congenital sensorineural hearing loss (SNHL). About 15% of babies who refer on their NHS will be found to have SNHL. As part of the CA Newborn Hearing Screening Program, this baby should be referred for an outpatient re-screen and referral placed to a [designated audiology center](#).

Congenital CMV infection is the most common acquired cause, and only treatable cause, of congenital SNHL. Early valganciclovir treatment has a beneficial effect on hearing in babies with congenital CMV infection (N Engl J Med 372:933-43 (2015)).

Congenital CMV infection can **only** be detected reliably upon urine or saliva PCR or culture testing in **infants younger than 3 weeks of age**.

Therefore, given the high risk of SNHL indicated by the referred NHS, potential for treatment with valganciclovir if SNHL confirmed, we recommend that a CMV test be ordered for this baby and follow-up ensured as part of the Newborn Hearing Screening Program.

For more information, click [here](#), or e-mail [Dylan Chan](#).

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