

**Universal Newborn Hearing Screening
Organized by The Great Orchestra
of Christmas Charity Foundation in Poland**



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Polish Program Exceptionality

- ♥ **The national program initiated and implemented by non-governmental organization in public health care surroundings.**
 - ♥ **One kind of screening device, one screening protocol - easy data comparison and results improvement.**
 - ♥ **Data collecting, tracking and storing-homogenous system**
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- ♥ **Around 700 000 newborns screened,**
 - ♥ **Significant decrease of audiological diagnosis and intervention average age,**
 - ♥ **Significant increase of knowledge on hearing losses, early hearing aids fitting and early rehabilitation,**
 - ♥ **Significantly shortened time of acquired hearing losses diagnosis,**
 - ♥ **Increase of number of specialist experienced in audiological diagnosis in infants and early intervention.**
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1st Level - achievements

- ♥ 95,5-99,8% newborns screened every month**
 - ♥ Systematic decrease of rescreened newborn number (<10%)**
 - ♥ Systematic decrease of the positive results number (4,2%)**
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1st Level - problems

- ♥ 6,1% of newborns with hearing loss factors**
 - ♥ Insufficient information for parents**
 - ♥ Lack of financing**
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2nd Level - problems

- ♥ **Underestimating the importance of follow-up by parents**
- ♥ **Long waiting time for diagnostics in some centers**

First visit before the end of 3rd month of life	57,1%
Diagnosis before the end of 3rd month of life	50,7%

2nd Level - problems

- ♥ **Staff qualifications sometimes insufficient**
 - ♥ **Incomplete diagnostics**
 - ♥ **Infants with hearing thresholds below 40 dB referred to fitting**
 - ♥ **Children remaining at 2nd level**
 - ♥ **Lack of equipment essential for the HA fitting**
 - ♥ **Lack of experience**
 - ♥ **Limited access to the central database**
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3rd Level - problems

- ♥ **Still limited experience in early intervention**
 - ♥ **Involvement of external companies**
 - ♥ **Earmolds laboratories**
 - ♥ **Staff not trained in infants rehabilitation**
 - ♥ **Reimbursement system**
 - ♥ **When and how to fit hearing aids?**
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When and how to fit HA?

♥ **Moderate hearing losses**

♥ **Maturation of hearing path**

♥ **Severe to profound hearing losses**

♥ **Real hearing thresholds**

Rehabilitation

- ♥ **Divided between health care and education centers**
 - ♥ **Small group of people trained to work with hearing impaired infants**
 - ♥ **Lack of equipment essential for infant rehabilitation**
 - ♥ **Permanently short of funds.**
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Solutions

- ♥ **Systematic, compulsory staffs' training at all levels and detailed guidelines for family doctors and pediatricians (the Council of Experts guidelines)**
 - ♥ **Verification of hearing risks factors**
 - ♥ **ASSR test as standard method of diagnosing in case of severe to profound hearing losses in the future**
 - ♥ **HA „banks” in all 3rd level centers**
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