

## Case Study

# Newborn Hearing Screening



## NHS newborn hearing screening programme

The early identification of hearing impairment gives children a better chance of developing speech and language skills, and of making the most of social and emotional interaction from an early age.

One to two babies in every 1,000 are born with a hearing loss in one or both ears and the majority of these babies are born into families with no experience or history of hearing loss.

The NHS newborn hearing screening programme (NHSP) in England aims to identify moderate, severe and profound

deafness and hearing impairment in newborn babies through a simple test completed shortly after birth.

In partnership with the newborn hearing screening programme centre, we developed an online information and performance management system which holds data from every NHS maternity unit.

It means clinicians can act sooner and provide better follow-up services to babies identified with hearing difficulties. The national system takes results directly from the testing equipment which improves data quality and reduces the burden of administration.

## Fact File

8m

babies tested since the programme started

3 months

on average to identify a hearing impairment, down from 3 years before the start of the programme