



NEOMETRICS™

Neometrics Newborn Hearing Screening Data Services for the California Department of Health Care Services

In June of 2008, Neometrics, a Division of Natus, was awarded a contract by the Children's Medical Services Branch of the Department of Health Care Services to provide the California Newborn Hearing Screening Program (NHSP) with Data Management Services to assure the determination of hearing status for more than 550,000 infants born in California each year. Due to instability in the California budget, start of this project has been delayed and now is anticipated to go live in 2010.

The Neometrics service is web-based and will collect demographic information and test results for newborn hearing screening from California hospitals with licensed perinatal services. Should a newborn refer, the Neometrics iCMS Case Management application will help to insure that follow-up outpatient screening, diagnostic audiological evaluations, and early intervention services are scheduled, performed and tracked. The service operates 24/7 and will provide for both remote reporting and remote case review.

Neometrics has over 30 years experience in providing both laboratory and case management systems for metabolic testing for state public health laboratories and follow-up groups. Many states track hearing screening simultaneously with their metabolic screening and Neometrics has pioneered applications for these combined services and applications. This service is based on the Neometrics suite of products in production at State Health Departments throughout the United States.

How will the service work?

Facilities will continue to use their hearing screening equipment as usual. Data will be collected from the devices in the customary way and transferred to a local computer or network server in your facility. In the case of Natus hearing screening devices, this would be either by wired or wireless networking, thumb drive or by burning the data to a CD in the case of the ALGO 5 cart based screener. The ALGO 3i handheld portable will continue to transfer data through an infrared connection and dongle. Echo-Screen devices will use a wired serial to USB connection to the host computer. In short, the collection of data from Natus devices will not change at all. We fully expect that no changes will be required on equipment from other manufacturers as well.

NHSP-certified hospitals are required to provide data to their regional Hearing Coordination Center (HCC). The California NHSP / Neometrics Service will provide a browser based GUI interface for manual remote data entry (RDES – Remote Data Entry System) for reporting as required. You will be able to enter this information online rather than having to manually complete and fax the currently required Infant Reporting Forms and monthly aggregate reports.

The program will also provide electronic data transfer options for transfer of patient and hearing screen result data to the HCC in a more automated fashion. The California NHSP will provide details in the upcoming months on the planned features of the system as well as announce training in advance of the rollout to certified hospitals.

When can the hospital expect to hear more? How will the project be rolled out?

As defined in the contract between Neometrics and the California NHSP, this project is structured with four phases or activities.



1. Gathering of requirements and feedback from stakeholders:

The first activity is ongoing and encompasses gathering data and requirements for the project. The NHSP and HCCs will be contacting stakeholders throughout the state to coordinate this activity.

2. Pilot testing of the service:

The second activity will be performed by the California NHSP and the Bay Area/Northern California Hearing Coordination Center where implementation and testing of the service will occur with the initial HCC.

3. Rollout to additional facilities within the initial HCC region:

The third activity will provide the service to additional certified hospitals within the initial HCC region. HCC staff will work with the hospital teams to coordinate training and implementation.

4. Final statewide rollout:

The fourth and final activity will roll out the service to the remaining HCCs and certified hospitals in the state.

Representatives for certified hospitals should contact the HCC for their region for more information on the project and the status of their hospital in the process.

What do I need to do to prepare for the Neometrics service?

All interested hospital staff should contact their local Hearing Coordination Center or the California NHSP to discuss the project and plans for training and implementation.

