What do Texas health professionals need to know about TEHDI?

- Every Texas newborn will have access to hearing screening by law.
- The law established a newborn hearing screening, tracking, and intervention program, TEHDI.
- The law requires insurance (Medicaid or private) to cover the screening.
- Follow-up services are also covered.

What is the role of the birth facility?

- To provide information regarding the results of the birth admission hearing screen to the parents, attending physician, or health-care provider, and to TEHDI.

What if I receive a referral?

- Birth facilities, audiologists, qualified hearing screening providers, intervention specialists, educators, and others who receive referrals shall either provide needed services or refer children and, with consent, shall provide the following information, where available, to TEHDI:
  - Results of follow-up care.
  - Results of audiologic testing of infants identified with hearing loss.
  - Reports on initiation of intervention services.

The annual number of infants with hearing loss is more than twice that of all the genetic and metabolic disorders identified through blood screens.

What does the infant’s medical home need to do?

- Assure that the audiology assessment is conducted on infants who do not pass the screening.
- Determine the etiology of the hearing loss.
- Provide referrals for specialty evaluations.
- Refer infants with hearing loss to the Early Childhood Intervention Program (ECI).
- Determine the presence of associated systemic disorders.
- Rule out late-onset of vision impairments.
- Review an infant’s history for the presence of risk factors for delayed or progressive hearing loss.
- Monitor developmental milestones for language delays that may arise from hearing loss.
- Monitor middle-ear conditions.
- Assure that a hearing screen is performed on infants who did not receive a newborn screen.

How can TEHDI help you?

- Direct and coordinate all necessary care, in TEHDI, for the infant who needs support from appropriate ancillary services. TEHDI Provider Access is free, web-based, and easy-to use.

- In TEHDI Provider Access, you can view:
  - Newborns that were assigned to you by the mother or the birth facility.
  - Newborns who need follow-up care (newborns that did not pass the hearing screen or those that did not receive a newborn hearing screen).
  - Patient records, including hearing test results.