



Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center

Communication Disorders Department Audiology Policy and Procedure

**SUBJECT: AUDIOLOGIC ASSESSMENT
OF THE SEVERELY DISABLED**

**Policy No.: 411
Supersedes: September 1990
Revision Date: July 2022**

PURPOSE

To outline procedures for audiologic assessment of the severely disabled.

POLICY

Audiologic assessment of the severely disabled is necessary to determine the status of the auditory system in individuals whose cognitive skills preclude the use of a basic and/or comprehensive audiologic assessment. Audiologic assessment of the severely disabled is conducted on the basis of perceptual, physiologic, or electrophysiological responses to acoustic stimuli. Assessment may occur as a result of failed hearing screening or referral and may result in recommendations for further audiologic assessment, rehabilitative assessment, medical/educational referral, hearing aid assessment, aural rehabilitation, speech or language assessment, or counseling.

PROCEDURES

1. Case history obtained from family member or caretaker
2. Otoscopic Evaluation
3. Assessment- may include but is not limited to:
 - a. Developmentally appropriate behavioral procedures (e.g. behavioral observation audiometry, visual reinforcement audiometry, play audiometry) using nonspeech and speech stimuli.
 - b. Behavioral observation of speech and language status.
 - c. Tympanometry, static immittance, and acoustic reflex measures.
 - d. Auditory evoked potentials (AEP) thresholds.

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COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES • DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

Signature (s) on File

4. Patients/clients with identified hearing loss receive follow-up services to monitor audiologic status and to ensure appropriate treatment.
5. Assessments use measurable acoustic stimuli (e.g. pure tones, broad band noise).
6. Specifications for electroacoustic equipment and ambient noise meet ANSI standards, where applicable.
7. Instrumentation is available for monitoring, recording, and reinforcing patients' responses.