

NHS Newborn and Infant Physical Examination Programme (NIPE)

Helping deliver a quality service

National implementation

The NHS Newborn and Infant Physical Examination Screening Programme (NIPE) sets standards to ensure all parents are offered the opportunity of a head to toe physical examination for their baby. This examination is to check for problems or abnormalities within 72 hours of birth and again between six and eight weeks. It includes a general all over physical check, as well as specific screening elements which involve examination of the baby's eyes, heart, hips and testes.

Research suggests clinical practice, policies and training for the newborn physical examinations vary enormously.

National implementation of the NIPE programme will include support for commissioners and providers to capture data, and to monitor and improve clinical practice, service performance and programme delivery.



Prevalence of conditions

- **heart** – around 1 in 200 babies may have a heart problem
- **hips** – about 1 or 2 in 1,000 babies have hip problems that require treatment
- **eyes** – about 2 or 3 in 10,000 babies have problems with their eyes that require treatment
- **testes** – about 1 in 100 baby boys have problems with their testes that require treatment

Improving data quality and management

In line with the Department of Health's national NIPE service specification, NHS trusts will be supported in implementing processes which improve and monitor screening programme delivery.

This includes use of an IT system, such as NIPE's recommended Screening Management And Reporting Tool (SMART). Use of such a system is mandatory.

SMART can:

- facilitate quick and easy data capture, analysis and sharing of data to inform clinical practice
- provide a failsafe mechanism for identifying late or missed NIPE examinations
- support audit and performance monitoring against quality standards and key performance indicators



Supporting training needs

NIPE has developed an innovative e-learning package to support practitioners in the delivery of the NIPE programme.

The e-learning module is free and easy to use and has been developed by the programme developed by the programme for practitioners undertaking the NIPE examination.

To register, visit: newbornphysical.screening.nhs.uk/elearning

Staying informed

Our website has the latest information on the NIPE roll-out and how your trust can participate.

Stay up to date with NIPE news through the NHS Screening Programmes newsletter,

Screening Matters, at:
www.screening.nhs.uk/screeningmatters

If you have any questions or would like further information, please email:
phe.screeninghelpdesk@nhs.net