

Abstract

In 2004, the former Ministry of Health issued 'The technical specifications for newborn hearing screening', and in 2013, 'The technical specifications for children's ear and hearing care' was issued. In recent years, China has continued to pay more attention to children's hearing health. In 2018 and 2021, the National Health Commission issued the 'Training outline of the national birth defect prevention and control talent training project (Trial)' and the 'Training outline of the national birth defect prevention and control talent training project (2021 version)'. In 2021, China promulgated the 'Action plan for the improvement of healthy children and the national vocational skills standard for birth defect prevention and control consultants (2021 version)', which provided a guarantee for the training and reserve of vocational skilled talents for the prevention and control of hearing birth defects across the country, and provided a comprehensive talent support for the standardized diagnosis and treatment of children's hearing and group health care. In August 2023, the National Health Commission issued 'The plan for improving the ability to prevent and control birth defects (2023-2027)', proposing to strengthen the screening of hearing impairment in children aged 0-6 years, strengthen the diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation services of late-onset deafness. In the same year, the expert group of the children's health care branch of the Chinese Preventive Medicine Association formulated the expert consensus on the construction of children's hearing health care specialty, which can provide a basis for the construction of children's hearing health care specialty and provide guidance for the prevention and management of hearing related diseases in groups of children.

Results

Early diagnosis, intervention, rehabilitation, and hearing and speech assessment of children with hearing loss, emphasizing the combination of health care and clinical diagnosis and treatment. While providing individual hearing care services for children, we also focus on the prevention and management of hearing related diseases among children in our jurisdiction. We provide consultation services for the transmission of hearing loss, continuously helping improve children's hearing health.

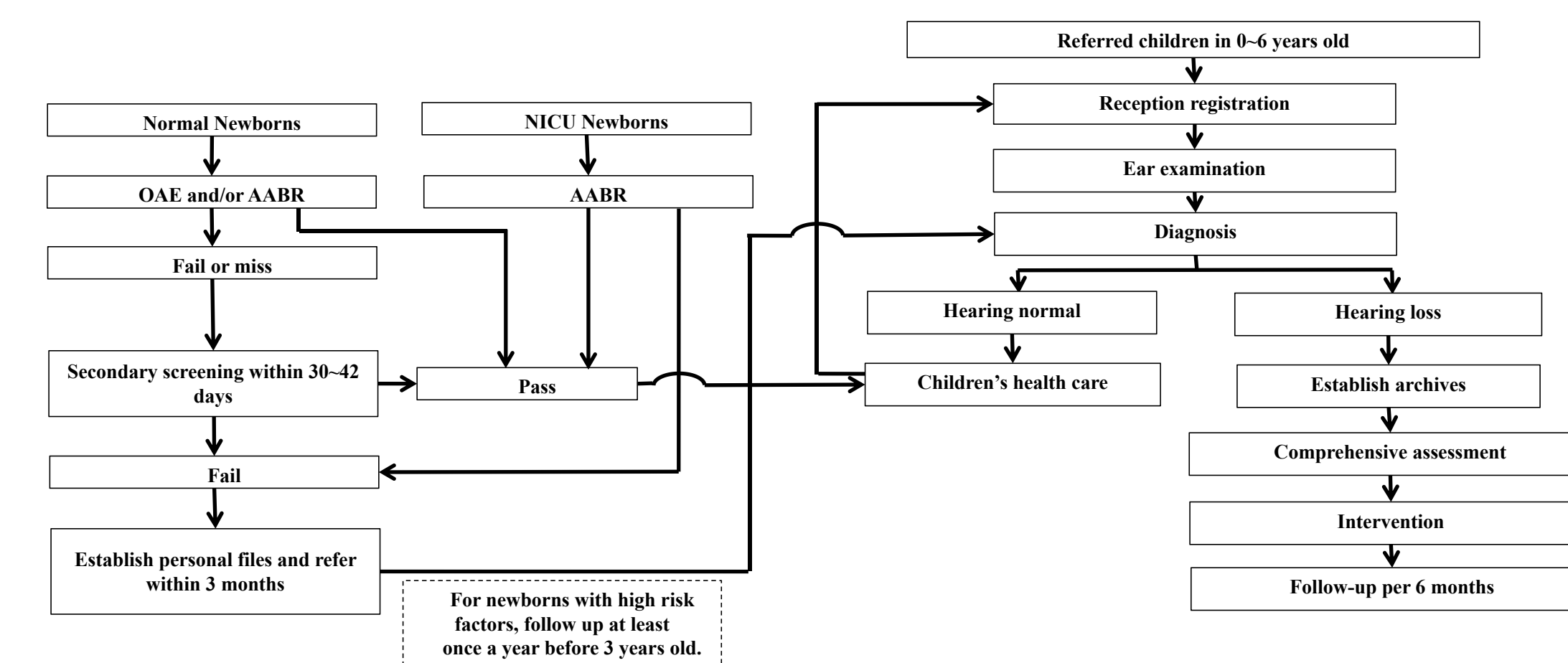


Figure 1. Children's ear and hearing health specialist service working flow

Introduction

According to the 'World Report on Hearing' released by the World Health Organization in 2021, the incidence of neonatal hearing loss is 0.2%, and children aged 1-4, 5-9, and 10-14 years old have increased to 1.0%, 1.5%, and 1.7%, respectively. The incidence of hearing loss in children increases with age, which not only affects children's hearing and speech development, but also has a serious impact on children's cognition, learning, and communication. The WHO estimates that more than 400 million people, including 34 million children, live with disabling hearing loss. Therefore, it is of great significance to further improve the hearing health care of children, realize the early detection, early diagnosis, and early intervention of children with hearing loss, reduce the medical cost and family burden, promote health of children and coalesce to the community. In China, we developed Pediatric Auditory Health Care for Groups in the last 20 years and constantly improve. We implemented universal newborn hearing screening, children's hearing screening for 0~6 years age groups, children's hearing diagnosis and intervention and district children group health care. The expert team suggested the standardized working flow, examination and diagnosis methods, positive indicators of hearing screening, principles of intervention and rehabilitation, quality control indicators, organization and management of quality control, and personnel, equipment and housing requirements.

Conclusion

By continuously improving the service capacity of children's ear and hearing care in medical institutions at all levels, it provides a basis for the construction of children's hearing care specialty, provides guidance for the prevention and management of hearing related diseases in children, and builds a comprehensive prevention and treatment system for birth defects in newborns and children at all stages. It is of great social and historical significance to lay the foundation for preventing and reducing birth defects and improving the quality of birth population.

Reference

Child Health Society of Chinese Preventive Medicine Association. Expert consensus on the children hearing care specialty construction [J]. Chinese Journal of Woman and Child Health Research, 2023, 34(12): 1-6.