

**READINESS OF PEDIATRIC AUDIOLOGIC SERVICES FOR THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF UNIVERSAL NEWBORN HEARING SCREENING
PROGRAMME**

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This study aimed to measure the overall readiness of audiologists to implement the Universal Newborn Hearing Screening (UNHS) program in government hospitals in Malaysia. A questionnaire was developed to assess the overall readiness of audiologists for the implementation of UNHS program. A total number of 67 questionnaires were posted to 25 hospitals which has implemented the High Risk Newborn Hearing Screening Program (HRNHSP). 45 questionnaires (67.16%) from 17 hospitals were returned in this study. The research findings showed a low satisfaction of respondents towards current available resources in the hospitals and the challenges faced in the implementation of HRNHSP. Spearman correlation tests revealed current available resources in the hospitals (0.459) and challenges faced during implementation of HRNHSP (0.271) are significantly correlated with the overall readiness to implement UNHS program ($p < 0.05$). In other words, the satisfaction of respondents towards these two constructs will influence their overall readiness to implement UNHS program. Validity and reliability of the self-developed questionnaire were computed. Validity was analyzed using face validity, content validity and construct validity. Construct validity was shown through the significant relationship between overall readiness with the two specific constructs, which are the current available resources and challenges faced. The questionnaire also showed high internal consistency reliability with alpha value of 0.79. Thus, this newly developed questionnaire is reliable and valid to be used to assess the readiness of audiologists for the implementation of UNHS program and identify aspects and areas that need to be improved before the implementation of UNHS program. In conclusion, the overall readiness of audiologists is fair and the implementation of UNHS program is still under consideration stage.

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