

Newborn Hearing Screening

Communicating “refer” Results to Families



DO say a positive message:

“Your baby didn’t pass the hearing screening. Your baby referred (indicate which ear/s) which means that more information is needed about your baby’s hearing. The next step is to have diagnostic hearing testing for your baby.”



DO give the “Can My Baby Hear?” brochure:

“Here’s a brochure that explains the importance of diagnostic hearing testing.” Discuss how the family should follow-up with a diagnostic audiology appointment, according to your hospital’s newborn hearing screening procedures.



DO NOT say misleading messages:

- The baby failed.
- The baby has a hearing loss.
- Don’t worry, probably nothing’s wrong.
- A lot of babies don’t pass.
(Nevada’s refer rate is about 3%)
- The baby doesn’t need follow-up testing.
- The baby was too fussy.
(Then it’s an invalid screening)
- The equipment’s not working right.
(Then it’s an invalid screening)
- It’s just fluid or vernix.
(We can’t assume this)



DO NOT perform multiple screens in an attempt to get a pass.