

Newborn Hearing Screening Recommendations

Step 1: Conduct the Newborn Hearing Screen

Complete a bilateral physiological hearing screening for each live birth at least 12 hours after birth, with the parents present for screening if possible. Infants who do not pass the initial screening should receive one (1) rescreen prior to discharge. The rescreen should occur right before discharge or at least four (4) hours after the infant's initial screening.

Step 2: Communicate Test Results

SAY: "Congratulations on the birth of your baby! We just finished screening [baby's name]'s hearing. He/she did not pass the screen today (inform parents of the result identifying which ear(s) did not pass). This does not necessarily mean that your baby has a permanent hearing loss, but without additional testing we can't be sure."

Step 3: Explain Timelines and Next Steps for Follow-up Care

FOR NON-RESCREENING HOSPITALS:

SAY: "At your baby's first doctor's appointment, it is important that you talk about the results of this screening and obtain a referral for another test before your baby reaches 1 month of age. We included a copy of the results of this test in your discharge paperwork so you can take them with you to your baby's first appointment. A fact sheet is also included for more information on the next steps for follow-up and important communication milestones."

FOR RESCREENING HOSPITALS:

SAY: "Please return to the hospital for a rescreen before your baby reaches 1 month of age. This will allow us to recheck your child's hearing. Here is a fact sheet for more information on the next steps for follow-up and important communication milestones."

- If your protocol is to schedule appointments in advance, please write the appointment information on the IHP factsheet ("Healthy Hearing Starts Here") after discussing it with the child's parents. If your protocol is to instruct parents to return to the nursery at any time for a rescreen, instruct mom to return **before the baby reaches 1 month of age**. Write "Before [the date the child will be 1 month of age] on the appointment date/time line of the IHP factsheet."

Step 4: Share Locations for Follow-up Care

FOR NON-RESCREENING HOSPITALS:

SAY: "Here's a list of providers that perform hearing screenings for newborns. You may need a referral from your baby's doctor, so be sure to discuss it at your baby's first appointment."

FOR RESCREENING HOSPITALS:

SAY: "Please remember to return to the hospital for a rescreen **before your baby reaches 1 month of age.**"

