



# 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 “What do I do now?” brochure:

“Here’s a brochure that explains diagnostic hearing testing.” Discuss how the family should follow-up with a diagnostic audiology appointment.



### **DO** give contact information for pediatric audiologist:

If possible, schedule appointment for the family before discharge. (This is especially critical for non-English speaking families)



### **DO NOT** say misleading messages:

- The baby failed.
- The baby has a hearing loss.
- Probably nothing’s wrong.
- A lot of babies don’t pass.  
(NH refer rate is 1%)
- The baby doesn’t need follow-up testing.
- The baby was 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.