

First Sound
Screening and Follow-up Protocols
South Carolina Universal Newborn Hearing Screening and
Intervention Program

I. Inpatient Hearing Screenings

During the maternity stay, a designated hospital staff member will:

- Inform parents of the hospital's universal newborn hearing screening program;
- Provide parents with the ***Congratulations Letter*** (see attached # 1);
- Obtain consent for hearing screening from parents using the ***Hospital's general consent***;
- Complete ***First Sound Parental Waiver*** if parents refuse screening (see attached #2).

All newborns will have at least one hearing screening before discharge. Newborns who pass the initial screening do not need to be screened again. Newborns who fail the initial screening will receive a second screening, in-house, and prior to discharge. It is recommended that the second screening be conducted immediately following the first screening whenever possible. All newborns will be assessed for risk indicators of delayed onset or progressive hearing loss (see attached #3).

The screening should be conducted after stabilization and be done in a quiet room or quiet section of the nursery. It is recommended that the screening be conducted using automated auditory brainstem response (AABR) technology. Screening is to be conducted per manufacturers' established operating instructions. A trained staff member must be available on each shift, seven days a week to conduct the screenings. Mandatory data elements will be entered into the screening equipment (regardless of screening technology used) for each newborn. The data will be downloaded and e-mailed to the Department of Health and Environmental Control or its designee by the fifth calendar day of each month.

A Newborn Hearing Screen (NBHS) form (see attached #3) must be completed and documentation (NBHS form white copy) placed in the hospital chart for newborns who:

- Are not screened prior to discharge
- Pass with identified risk indicator(s)
- Receive a fail on the second screen

II. Follow-up Procedures on Newborns Who PASS the Inpatient Screenings

IIA. Newborns who PASS and no risk indicator(s) is identified

When any newborn with no risk indicator passes prior to discharge a designated hospital staff member will:

- Provide parents with the **yellow copy** of the **Newborn Hearing Screen Results** letter (see attached #4) that reiterates the screening results. Place the **white copy** in the newborn's chart and forward the **blue copy** to the newborn's primary care provider.
- Provide parents with **First Sound** brochure (see attached #5) which describes delayed onset and progressive hearing loss and details typical developmental milestones and encourages parents to contact the child's pediatrician, other health care provider, or an audiologist to seek further testing if hearing loss is suspected in the future.

IIB. Newborns who PASS and one or more risk indicator(s) are identified

When any newborn passes prior to discharge and one or more risk indicator(s) are identified, a designated hospital staff member will:

- Schedule an appointment before discharge with an audiologist for **rescreening at 3 months post discharge**. Schedule infants born on weekends or holidays on the next working day (i.e. Monday for weekend discharges) and notified parent(s) of the appointment date by phone or letter.
- In person and prior to newborn's discharge:
 - ⇒ Inform parents that their baby has passed the screening however risk indicator(s) for delayed onset or progressive hearing loss are present and an appointment for follow-up has been scheduled with an audiologist;
 - ⇒ Inform parents that they are financially responsible for cost of appointment if they have no other public or private insurance;
 - ⇒ Inform parents that, if their insurance requires pre-approval for services, they are responsible for obtaining pre-approval for this appointment from their Primary Care Provider;
 - ⇒ Present parents with the **yellow copy** of the **Newborn Hearing Screen Results** letter (see attached #4) that reiterates the screening results and the importance of keeping the follow-up appointment noted on the letter. Place the **white copy** in the newborn's chart and forward the **blue copy** to the newborn's primary care provider;
 - ⇒ Provide parents with **First Sound** brochure (see attached #5) which describes delayed onset and progressive hearing loss and details typical developmental milestones;

- Complete a NBHS.
- Forward copies of the NBHS form within **10 calendar days**, as follows:
 - The **white copy** of the NBHS form will be placed in the **newborn's chart**.
 - The **yellow copy** of the NBHS form will be sent to **DHEC**.
 - The **green copy** of the NBHS form will be sent to **audiologists**.
 - The **blue copy** of the NBHS form will be sent to the **primary care provider**.

III. Follow-up procedures on newborns who FAIL the second screen

In the event that, prior to discharge, the newborn fails the second screen, a designated hospital staff member will:

- Schedule an audiological diagnostic evaluation to be completed **within 30 calendar days** of the newborn's discharge. Schedule infants born on weekends or holidays on the next working day (i.e. Monday for weekend discharges) and notified parent(s) of the appointment date.
- In person and prior to newborn's discharge:
 - ⇒ Inform parents that their baby failed the screening and an appointment for follow-up has been scheduled with an audiologist;
 - ⇒ Inform parents that there will be no expense to them for the follow-up appointment;
 - ⇒ Inform parents that, if their insurance requires pre-approval for services, they are responsible for obtaining pre-approval for this appointment from their Primary Care Provider;
 - ⇒ Present parents with the **yellow copy** of the **Newborn Hearing Screen Results** letter (see attached #4) that reiterates the screening results and the importance of keeping the follow-up appointment noted on the letter. Place the **white copy** in the newborn's chart and forward the **blue copy** to the newborn's primary care provider;
 - ⇒ Provide parents with **First Sound** brochure (see attached #5) which describes delayed onset and progressive hearing loss and details typical developmental milestones;
- Complete a NBHS form.
- Forward copies of the NBHS form **within 10 calendar days**, as follows:
 - The **white copy** of the NBHS form will be placed in the **newborn's chart**.
 - The **yellow copy** of the NBHS form will be sent to **DHEC**.
 - The **green copy** of the NBHS form will be sent to **audiologists**.
 - The **blue copy** of the NBHS form will be sent to the **primary care provider**.

IV. Newborns who are not screened before discharge

IVA. Not screened and detected prior to discharge

If any newborn is not screened prior to discharge (except in the case of death or parental refusal) a designated hospital staff member will:

- Make every effort to screen the newborn before the discharge process is completed. In the event the newborn cannot be screened before the discharge process is completed:
- Schedule the newborn for an outpatient screening at the discharging hospital to be completed **within 14 calendar days** of discharge
- In person and prior to newborn's discharge:
 - ⇒ Inform parents that their baby has not been screened therefore an appointment for outpatient screening has been scheduled;
 - ⇒ Present parents with the **yellow copy** of the **Newborn Hearing Screen Results** letter (see attached #4) that reiterates that their baby was not screened and the importance of keeping the follow-up appointment. Place the **white copy** in the newborn's chart and forward the **blue copy** to the newborn's primary care provider;
 - ⇒ Provide parents with **First Sound** brochure (see attached #5) which describes delayed onset and progressive hearing loss and details typical developmental milestones;
- Complete **Patient Information** and **Risk Indicators for Delayed Onset or Progressive Hearing Loss sections** of NBHS form for each newborn not screened before discharge. Write the outpatient screening appointment date, time, and location in the **Appointment Information** section of the NBHS form. Withhold NBHS form from the medical record until time of newborn's outpatient screening and proceed as instructed in section V.

IVB. Not screened and not detected prior to discharge

If daily nursery census reveals that any newborn was not screened prior to discharge (except in the case of death or parental refusal) and not scheduled for an outpatient screening prior to discharge then a designated hospital staff member will:

- Contact the family and schedule the newborn for an outpatient screening to be completed **within 14 calendar days** of discharge.
- Complete **Patient Information** and **Risk Indicators for Delayed Onset or Progressive Hearing Loss sections** of NBHS form for each newborn not screened before discharge. Write the outpatient screening appointment date, time, and location

in the **Appointment Information** section of the NBHS form. Withhold NBHS form from the medical record until time of newborn's outpatient screening and proceed as instructed in section V.

IVC. Not screened due to parental refusal

If any newborn is not screened prior to discharge due to parental refusal, then a designated hospital staff member will:

- Provide parents with **First Sound** brochure (see attached #5) which describes delayed onset and progressive hearing loss and details typical developmental milestones and encourages parents to contact the child's pediatrician, other health care provider, or an audiologist to seek further testing if hearing loss is suspected in the future.
- Complete a NBHS form being sure to check the **Parental refusal** box in the **Reason for Infant Not Screened** section.

Forward copies of the NBHS form **within 10 calendar days**, as follows:

- The **white copy** of the NBHS form will be placed in the **newborn's chart**.
- The **yellow copy** of the NBHS form will be sent to **DHEC**.
- The **green copy** of the NBHS form will be **discarded**.
- The **blue copy** of the NBHS form will be sent to the **primary care provider**.

IVD. Not screened due to transfer

If any newborn is not screened prior to discharge due to transfer, then a designated hospital staff member will, when possible:

- In person and prior to mother's discharge:
 - ⇒ Inform parents that their baby has not been screened however the transfer hospital will screen their baby prior to discharge;
 - ⇒ Present parents with the **yellow copy** of the **Newborn Hearing Screen Results** letter (see attached #4) that reiterates that their baby will be screened by the transfer hospital. Place the **white copy** in the newborn's chart and forward the **blue copy** to the newborn's primary care provider.
- Complete a NBHS form being sure to check the **Transferred to** box and write the name of the transfer hospital in the **Reason for Infant Not Screened** section.

Forward copies of the NBHS form **within 10 calendar days**, as follows:

- The **white copy** of the NBHS form will be placed in the **newborn's chart**.
- The **yellow copy** of the NBHS form will be sent to **DHEC**.

- The **green copy** of the NBHS form will be sent to the **transfer hospital**.
- The **blue copy** of the NBHS form will be sent to the **primary care provider**.

V. Outpatient screening follow-up procedures

At time of outpatient screening, **retrieve newborn's NBHS form** and **complete the screening results** section being sure to check the appropriate boxes.

VA. Newborns who PASS and no risk indicator(s) are identified

When the newborn with no risk indicator passes the outpatient screening, a designated hospital staff member will:

- Provide parents with the **yellow copy** of the **Newborn Hearing Screen Results** letter (see attached #4) that reiterates the screening results. Place the **white copy** in the newborn's chart and forward the **blue copy** to the newborn's primary care provider.
- Provide parents with **First Sound** brochure (see attached #5) which describes delayed onset and progressive hearing loss and details typical developmental milestones and encourages parents to contact the child's pediatrician, other health care provider, or an audiologist to seek further testing if hearing loss is suspected in the future.

VB. Newborns who PASS and one or more risk indicator(s) are identified

When any newborn passes the outpatient screening and one or more risk indicator(s) are identified, a designated hospital staff member will immediately:

- Schedule an appointment with an audiologist for rescreening to be **completed at 3 months post discharge** and write the follow-up appointment date, time, and name of audiologist in the **Appointment Information** section of the NBHS form.
- In person:
 - ⇒ Inform parents that their baby has passed the screening however risk indicators for delayed onset or progressive hearing loss are present and an appointment for follow-up has been scheduled with an audiologist;
 - ⇒ Inform parents that they are financially responsible for cost of appointment if they have no other public or private insurance;
 - ⇒ Inform parents that, if their insurance requires pre-approval for services, they are responsible for obtaining pre-approval for this appointment from their Primary Care Provider;
 - ⇒ Present parents with the **yellow copy** of the **Newborn Hearing Screen Results** letter (see attached #4) that reiterates the screening results and the importance of keeping the follow-up appointment noted on the letter. Place the **white copy** in the newborn's chart and forward the **blue copy** to the newborn's primary care provider;
 - ⇒ Provide parents with **First Sound** brochure (see attached #5) which describes

delayed onset and progressive hearing loss and details typical developmental milestones;

- Forward forms as described in section IIB.

VC. Newborns who FAIL the outpatient screen

In the event that the newborn fails the outpatient screen, a designated hospital staff member will immediately:

- Schedule an audiological diagnostic evaluation to be completed **within 30 calendar days** of the outpatient screen and write the follow-up appointment date, time, and name of audiologist in the **Appointment Information** section of the NBHS form.
- In person:
 - ⇒ Inform parents that their baby failed the screening and an appointment for follow-up has been scheduled with an audiologist;
 - ⇒ Inform parents that there will be no expense to them for the follow-up appointment;
 - ⇒ Inform parents that, if their insurance requires pre-approval for services, they are responsible for obtaining pre-approval for this appointment from their Primary Care Provider;
 - ⇒ Present parents with the **yellow copy** of the **Newborn Hearing Screen Results** letter (see attached #4) that reiterates the screening results and the importance of keeping the follow-up appointment noted on the letter. Place the **white copy** in the newborn's chart and forward the **blue copy** to the newborn's primary care provider;
 - ⇒ Provide parents with **First Sound** brochure (see attached #5) which describes delayed onset and progressive hearing loss and details typical developmental milestones;
- Forward forms as described in section III.

VD. Newborns who do not keep the appointment for outpatient screening

- If outpatient screening appointment is not kept, check the **DNKA Outpatient Screen (Did Not Keep Appointment)** box in the **Reason for Infant Not Screened** section.

Forward copies of the NBHS form **within 10 calendar days**, as follows:

- The **white copy** of the NBHS form will be placed in the **newborn's chart**.
- The **yellow copy** of the NBHS form will be sent to **DHEC**.
- The **green copy** of the NBHS form will be **discarded**.
- The **blue copy** of the NBHS form will be sent to the **primary care provider**.