Newborn Hearing Screening

Communicating “did not pass” results to families

DO give a positive message:

“Your baby didn’t pass the hearing screening.”
“Your baby did not pass on (the left/right or either ear), which means more information is needed about your baby’s hearing.”
“The next step is an outpatient follow-up rescreen for your baby when they are at least 10 days old.”

DO give the “TEHDI: After the Hearing Screen” brochure:

“Here’s a brochure that explains about audiological diagnostic evaluations should your baby not pass the outpatient follow-up rescreen.”

Discuss why an outpatient follow-up rescreen is needed. According to your hospital’s newborn hearing screening procedures, possibly offer to assist with getting an appointment with another facility if your hospital does not perform outpatient follow-up rescreens.

STOP DO NOT say:

- Your baby failed or referred
- It’s just because of fluid or vernix (Cannot assume this)
- Your baby is deaf or hard of hearing (Cannot assume this)
- Probably nothing is wrong (Cannot assume this)
- A lot of babies don’t pass (minimizes need to attend rescreen)
- Your baby doesn’t need follow-up testing
- Your baby was fussy (Then it was an invalid screening)
- The equipment was not working right (Then it was an invalid screening)

STOP DO NOT perform multiple screens in an attempt to get a pass (The limit is two valid screens)