

Hearing Screening in the Hospital: Documentation and Reporting

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MEDICAL FACT SHEET NEWBORN HEARING SCREENING

Why is reporting and documentation important?

Accurate and efficient reporting of newborn hearing screening results allows for the early detection of babies with hearing loss and the efficient referral to follow-up services. Advances in education and technology provide the opportunity to find babies with a hearing loss at an earlier age than ever before.

By reporting results quickly to MDH and the primary care provider, follow-up can begin so that a hearing loss can either be confirmed or ruled out. Regardless of the outcome, reporting and documenting results moves the hearing screening process along and provides a better experience for both the baby and the family.

Reporting Hearing Results to MDH

Hearing screening results should be reported on the newborn screening card and sent to MDH within 10 days of screening. The area in the lower right hand corner of the card is designed to collect this information. There are two ways to submit hearing screening results to MDH on the newborn screening card:

- **If the hearing screening is completed before the blood sample is put on the card**, send in the hearing result with the blood specimen card.
- **If the hearing screen is not complete at the time of blood collection**, complete the demographic information on the specimen card, then remove the second page of the card labeled 'Hearing Screening Copy.' Send this sheet in separately as soon as the **FINAL INPATIENT** hearing results are ready.
- **If a REFER result is first recorded and you plan to rescreen before discharge**, wait and record the **FINAL** inpatient hearing screening results at time of discharge on the 'Hearing Screening Copy'

Reporting Outpatient Rescreening Results

Print out results of rescreen or complete MDH outpatient rescreen report and fax to the MDH newborn screening program within 10 days of screening.

Reporting Hearing Results to the Physician

Newborn Hearing Screening results also need to be reported to the physician who will be responsible for follow-up of the infant. Reporting results to the baby's doctor, especially REFER results, allows the physician to educate the parents about the result and the need for further follow-up.

Special Circumstances

- **Parents refuse screening:** Have the parents read and sign the Parental Refusal of Newborn Screening form. Fax a copy to MDH and to the child's physician.
- **It is impossible to screen the baby:** If circumstances do not allow the baby to be screened (such as the baby's death), fax this information to MDH to minimize the number of times we contact you.
- **Equipment fails:** Report a missed screen due to equipment failure to MDH, schedule an appointment for an outpatient screen and fax the appointment information to MDH.

Documentation

- Record result in **Hospital Hearing Log**
- Record result in **Infant Medical Record**
- Record result on **MDH Specimen Card** (or pulled out 'Hearing Screening Copy' Page) and Submit
- Send result to **infant's primary care provider**
- Provide result to **infant's family**
- If REFER at discharge, document and fax follow-up hearing appointment information to MDH