



OSDH Newborn Hearing Screening Program

NewbornScreen@health.ok.gov or 1-800-766-2223

April 2015

Hospital Hearing Reports

Did You Know?

Even mild hearing loss can affect a child's speech, language, academic, & emotional development.

They can miss 40% of the words spoken to them if unidentified.

Monthly Tips

Screening

Ear couplers and electrodes use hydrogel to attach to an infant's skin.

To help the couplers/ electrodes stick:

- Use a dab of water.
- Keep a set of pink saline packets with hearing machine.
- Rub the electrodes between your hands prior to opening the package to warm.

- The Oklahoma Newborn Hearing Screening Program, in coordination with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), has been providing quarterly hospital compliancy reports to every Oklahoma birthing hospital. This is designed to ensure that every newborn has their hearing screened at birth and receives the appropriate follow-up.
- These quarterly reports will be issued 3-4 months after the quarter has ended, and will provide a statistical assessment of each hospital's compliance with state law for screening & reporting as well as the site's technical screening performance.
- There are three categories of data analysis:

I. Refer (Not Pass) Rate

- This is the percentage of newborns who did **not pass** the hearing screening. Refers determine which children need follow-up to determine hearing status.
- **Tips:** An high referral percentage (above 5%) may be indicative of improper screening techniques, screening restless children, or having equipment that is not calibrated.

I. Not Performed Rate

- Oklahoma State mandates require that all babies have their hearing screened. This rate shows the number of babies who did were **not screened** at the hospital prior to discharge.
- **Tips:** Stress the importance of screening to parents and make sure that every newborn is screened before discharge.

I. Not Reported Rate

- This is the percentage of cases where the results of the hearing screening were **not reported** to the OK Newborn Hearing Screening Program in compliance with state law. This may be due to the lack of marking the bloodspot filter paper or not faxing updates on babies who were in NICU.
- **Tips:** Set up protocols to ensure that all hearing results are reported and that no documentation is lost. Not reporting can delay a child's follow-up care and timely diagnosis.