Recommended Out of Hospital Hearing Screening Protocol

Prenatal Preparation

1. Provide parents with information about newborn hearing screening.
2. Review any family history of hearing loss, along with other risk factors.
3. Offer to perform initial hearing screen within 2 weeks of delivery or provide written information to parents on how they can obtain a hearing screen in their area.
4. If an OAE screen will be performed, explain to parents the limitations of OAE vs. ABR screening.
5. Advise referral to facility with ABR screening if family history of hearing loss relates to auditory neuropathy.
6. Provide parents with an informed consent for hearing screening and document parent’s choices.

Initial Hearing Screen

1. Perform initial newborn hearing screening at birth or within 3 days of delivery (no later than 2 weeks) or confirm with parents that they have made arrangements for a hearing screening.

Passing Result

1. If baby passes initial screen on both ears, provide parents with a checklist of normal developmental milestones for speech and language and remind parents that hearing loss can occur at any time. Encourage them to have their baby/child’s hearing re-evaluated if they have a concern.
2. Document results in your chart and enter into KY CHILD. If you do not have access to KY CHILD, document results on the Hearing Screen Report form and fax the Hearing Screen report form to KY EHDI at 502-429-7160.

Referral on One or Both Ears

1. If baby refers on one or both ears, rescreen both ears within two weeks (no later than 6 weeks of age).
2. If baby passes on both ears at rescreen, proceed with the steps for a passing result above.
3. If baby refers on one or both ears at the second screen, discuss with parents the need for further testing.
4. Explain Guide By Your Side program and encourage a referral.
5. Recommend a diagnostic ABR evaluation with a pediatric audiologist.
6. If parents agree to a referral with an audiologist, assist in scheduling the appointment by calling the parent’s choice for an audiologist and scheduling the appointment for the child while parents are still in the office. Document results and next appointment in KY CHILD or on the Hearing Screen Report form. Don’t forget to fax the form to KY EHDI!
7. If parents decline the referral, document the refusal in KY CHILD or on the Hearing Screen Report form and notify KY EHDI.