

**Newborn Hearing Screening Video Script**  
September 30, 2008

**Narrator:**

Did you know your baby starts developing language and communication skills from the moment of birth by hearing sounds? How do you know what your baby is or isn't hearing if they can't tell you?

Hearing loss is "invisible" and 50% of all babies with hearing loss have no known signs or risk factors, so at Kaiser Permanente we screen all newborns for hearing loss before they leave the hospital.

Approximately 3 out of every 1000 babies will be diagnosed with a hearing loss, so early testing can make a big difference in his or her overall health. A baby who has a hearing loss may have a hard time developing language skills and may not do well in school. The sooner a hearing loss is discovered, the sooner you and your family can get the care your child needs.

It's also important that babies with a family history of hearing loss be checked regularly as hearing loss can occur at any age.

This video was created to help you understand the newborn hearing screening process and we hope it answers some of the questions you have about your child's hearing screen.

**Screeener:**

Hi, my name is Marlene. Congratulations on the birth of your daughter. I'm one of the newborn hearing screeners and I'll be performing her hearing screen during her hospital stay.  
Have you heard about this screening process?

**Mom:**

Yes, actually I do remember reading about it in the healthy beginnings newsletter.

**Screeener:**

That's great! As you might recall the hearing screen takes place before your baby leaves the hospital and while she is quiet or sleeping. It doesn't hurt at all and it's a covered Kaiser Permanente benefit.

With your permission, I'd like to perform her hearing screen now. Would that be OK with you?

**Mom:**

Yes and as you can see she's already sleeping.

**Screeners:**

Ok, so before we get started, please read and sign our consent form which explains the process.

**Narrator:**

The screener will review your baby's medical history and look for risk factors such as family history, medications and other early indicators of hearing loss. When you agree that you are ready for your baby's hearing screen, the screener will decide where the test will be performed – either in your hospital room if it's quiet or in another room on the floor. You are welcome to accompany your baby if the decision is to perform the screen in another room.

**Screeners:**

I will explain everything I am doing as we go through the process.

Most babies sleep during the entire test but a few will wake up as we prepare them for the screen. Because babies can be fussy, the screen may take 10-30 minutes to complete.

Do you have any questions before we get started?

**Mom:**

How can you test my baby's hearing while he's sleeping?

**Screeners:**

We place sensors on your baby's forehead, back of his neck and shoulder. Specially designed baby earphones go over your baby's ears and emit soft tapping sounds. Your baby's response to these sounds will be picked up and analyzed by this computer.

**Mom:**

Thanks for taking the time to explain things; it makes me feel better knowing how things work.

**VOICE OVER:**

Thanks to today's technology, Newborn Hearing Screening tests can be performed on infants as young as 4 hours old. In most cases the test takes about 15 minutes from beginning to end.

Your baby's hearing results will have one of two outcomes: Pass or Refer.

A Pass indicates your baby has normal newborn hearing in both ears. The brochure you receive will have the screening results and will describe the developmental milestones he or she should be meeting over time. Your baby's pediatrician will also be monitoring these milestones during regular office visits.

A Refer result indicates we need to refer your baby for another hearing screen within a month of being discharged. Please don't worry as many babies need a second hearing screen and most babies pass. Before leaving the hospital you will have an appointment made for your baby's hearing re-screen at one of our clinics. This appointment is separate from your two-week appointment with your baby's doctor.

**Screeener:**

We're all complete. I'll just go ahead and remove the sensor tabs and the earphone and I will re-swaddle your baby and we're all finished.

**Mom:**

Wow that was easy and she wasn't uncomfortable at all during the test, thank you very much.

**Screeener:**

I'm also going to give you a copy of the consent form you signed with the screening results. This will go inside your baby's medical chart so her pediatrician can review them.

**Narrator:**

Having a baby is a wonderful experience but it can also be stressful with all of the advice and new information you are receiving. We hope this video has answered most of your questions about the newborn hearing screening process and if you have any other questions or concerns about your baby's hearing once you leave the hospital, please contact your baby's pediatrician as soon as possible.

Remember, if hearing loss is discovered early, there are many ways you and your child's doctor can work together to keep your child healthy and to continue meeting their developmental milestones.

END