March 30, 2012

Early Childhood Hearing Screening Partners,

This notification is a reminder of the Arizona reporting requirements for newborn hearing screening and subsequent tests. Arizona Revised Statute 36-694 mandates the reporting of all hearing screening for both newborns and infants (up to two years of age) to the Office of Newborn Screening. As prescribed by A.A.C. R9-13-207(E), all screening and diagnostic hearing evaluations shall be submitted within one week following the hearing screen, even if the results are normal.

Why Reporting Is So Important?
Hearing loss is the most common birth condition. The intent of early childhood screening is to identify infants and young children with hearing loss as early as possible so that appropriate intervention can be initiated. In 2010, 163 babies were identified with hearing loss and as of 03/05/2011, 115 babies born in 2011 have been identified with hearing loss.
In 2010, 556 babies who failed their newborn hearing screening were lost to follow up or lost to documentation meaning that the final outcome for these babies is unknown. Reporting hearing results for children less than 2 years of age to ADHS helps identifying those who need further testing, and intervention services.

Who should report hearing screening results?
Hospitals, birthing centers, audiologists, healthcare providers and medical homes, community screening programs such as Early Head Start, First Things First, and other early childhood community screening programs

How to report the hearing screening?
Screening reporting forms are available at www.aznewborn.com or by calling (602) 364-1409 or 1-800-548-8381. Results should be reported within one week following the hearing screen to ADHS by fax at 602-364-1495

Your role in the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention process is fundamental. If you need additional information, do not hesitate to contact me at 602-364-1410.

Sincerely,

Ward Jacox, Chief
Office of Newborn Screening