March 26, 2020

Dear Providers,

Thank you for the valuable services that you provide families in Tennessee. Due to the COVID 19 emergency, limited access to follow up services outside of the hospital setting is available for families. The Tennessee Department of Health Newborn Hearing Follow Up Program is recommending all babies who do not pass their initial hearing screening in the birth hospital be rescreened before discharge; rescreening should not be conducted within 4 hours of the initial hearing screening. All screening results should be reported to the Tennessee Department of Health. If the baby refers on the rescreen then they should be instructed to follow-up with diagnostic testing by 3 months of age instead of being brought back to the hospital for another rescreen as outpatient.

This recommendation is not mandatory and is being made in an effort to expedite access to hearing rescreening services during these exceptional times. Thank you for your continuing support to identify infants born with hearing loss.

Best Regards,

Sean Goad

Program Director, Newborn Hearing Follow Up

\*Hearing screening is required by Tennessee Code Annotated Title 68, Chapter 5, Part 9, Sections 901-906, Rules and Regulations 1200-15-01 (Claire’s Law, July 2008).