

# Improving Newborn Hearing Screening Through Collaboration and Communication

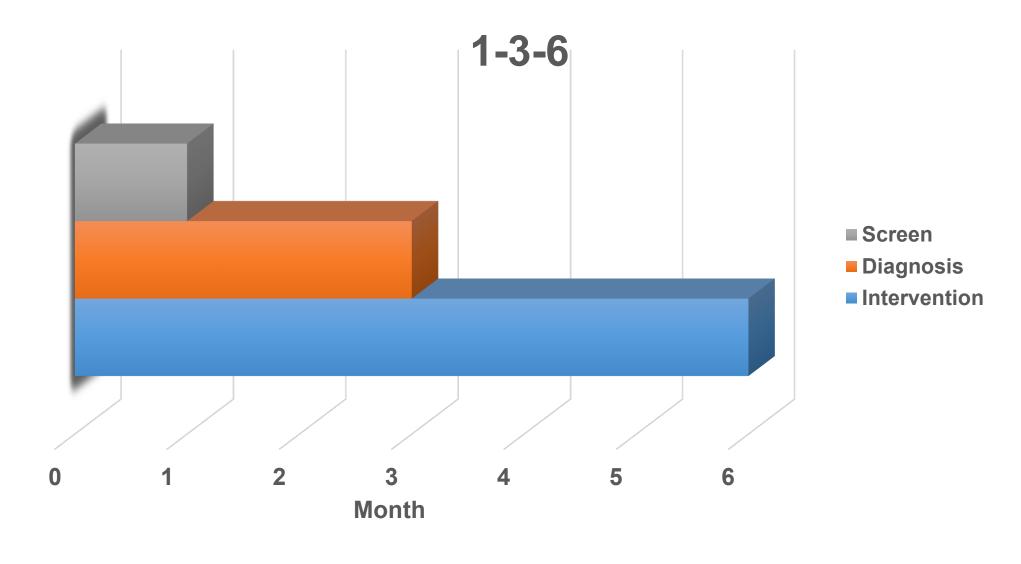
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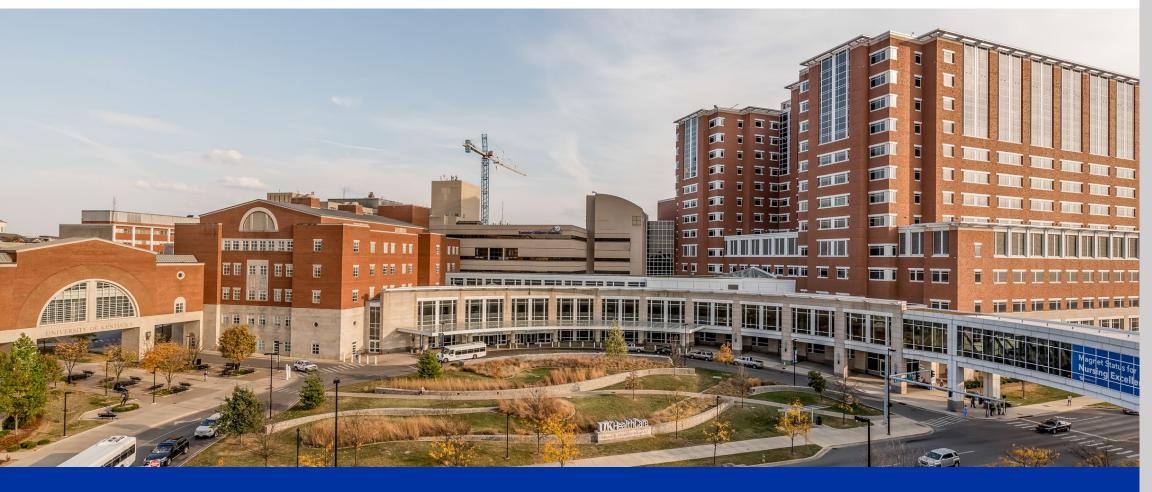


#### INTRODUCTION

- Hearing loss is the number one birth defect among children.
- Three out of every 1000 children are born with some degree of permanent hearing impairment.
- There are significant consequences of delayed diagnosis and failure to obtain timely intervention including communication impairment and negative socioeconomic effects.
- Universal Newborn Hearing Screening (UNHS) was implemented in order to ensure that all infants are identified early so that appropriate intervention can occur and this critical timeline can be met.
- UNHS is a critical hospital program that is designed to ensure all infants born have their hearing screening prior to discharge.
- ~2500 infants at the University of Kentucky screened annually.
- Team approach engaging both ambulatory and hospital services, we redesigned our UNHS program in order to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the UNHS program.

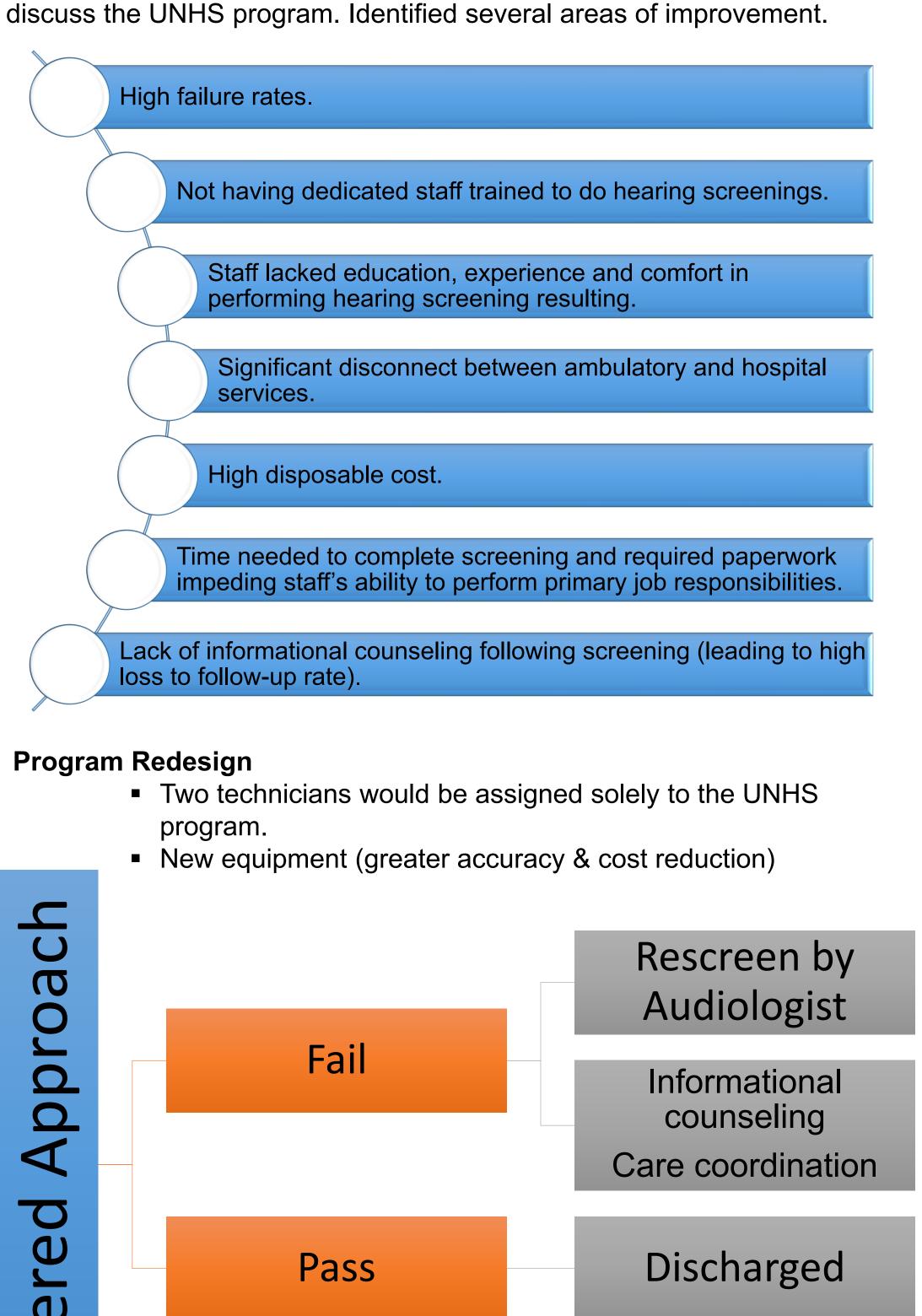
# **National Guidelines**





#### **PROCESS**

Over the course of a year, hospital leadership and specialists met to discuss the UNHS program. Identified several areas of improvement.



## **RESULTS**

Care Coordination

- Decrease in the failure rate attributed to staff hired as dedicated UNHS technicians, improved training, more efficient processes and improved communication.
- Greater education and support.

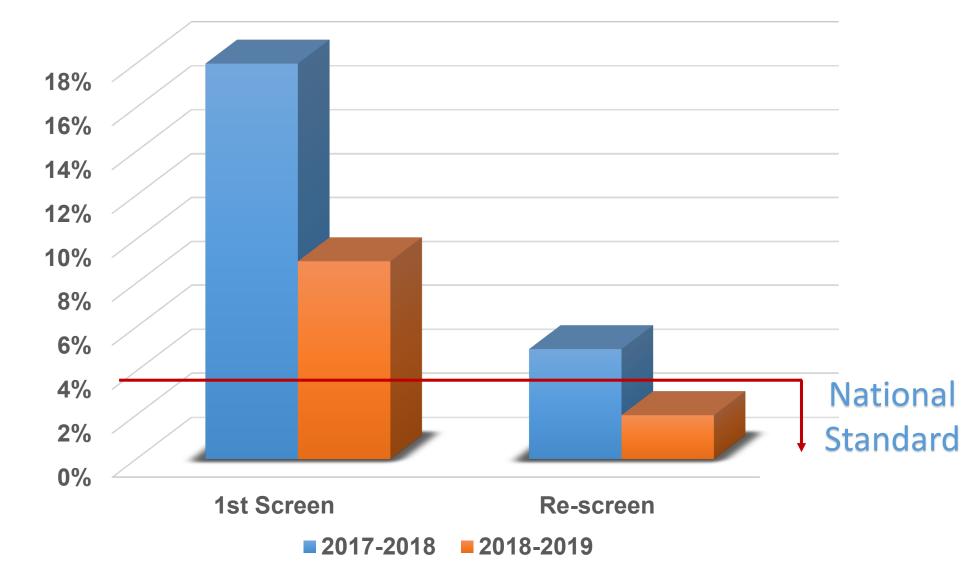
Patient Care & Safety

- Improvement in care coordination and communication between ambulatory and hospital services.
- Director and staff, the RN / RN Manager time investment has been redeployed.



• Significant savings driven by disposable cost of greater than \$11.00 per screening. This has led to a minimum of \$30,000 annual savings to the Enterprise.

#### **FAILURE RATES**



## **CMV SCREENING**

It is well-known that congenital CMV infection can result in permanent childhood hearing loss. As a result of this new program, Pediatric Infectious Disease and Audiology work closely to ensure that all newborns who fail their screening now receive targeted CMV testing.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The success of the new hearing screening program has been a signficiant team effort. We would like to acknowledge the dedication and commitment of the entire team, including Kayla Greene and Missy Sanderson (our hearing screening technicians), along with our Audiologists.