

# The Next Steps: New Jersey's Checklist to Improve Follow-up and Assess Understanding

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## The Next Steps Forms

The collage displays several forms used in the program, such as 'Hospital Repeat Screen', 'Next Steps Family Copy', 'Case Management Copy', 'Medical Home-Atresia', 'Next Steps Repeat Screen/ Appointment', and 'Next Steps Refer ABR'. Each form includes checkboxes for various actions and contact information for Linda Biando.

## Who doesn't love a good checklist?



- ✓ Simple
- ✓ Literacy friendly
- ✓ Picture identifiers
- ✓ Consistent message (script)
- ✓ Vehicle to assess parent understanding
- ✓ Method to document information given
- ✓ Take home tool for parents
- ✓ Can be freely shared and modified
- ✓ A Great Idea!

## Results

**Summary**

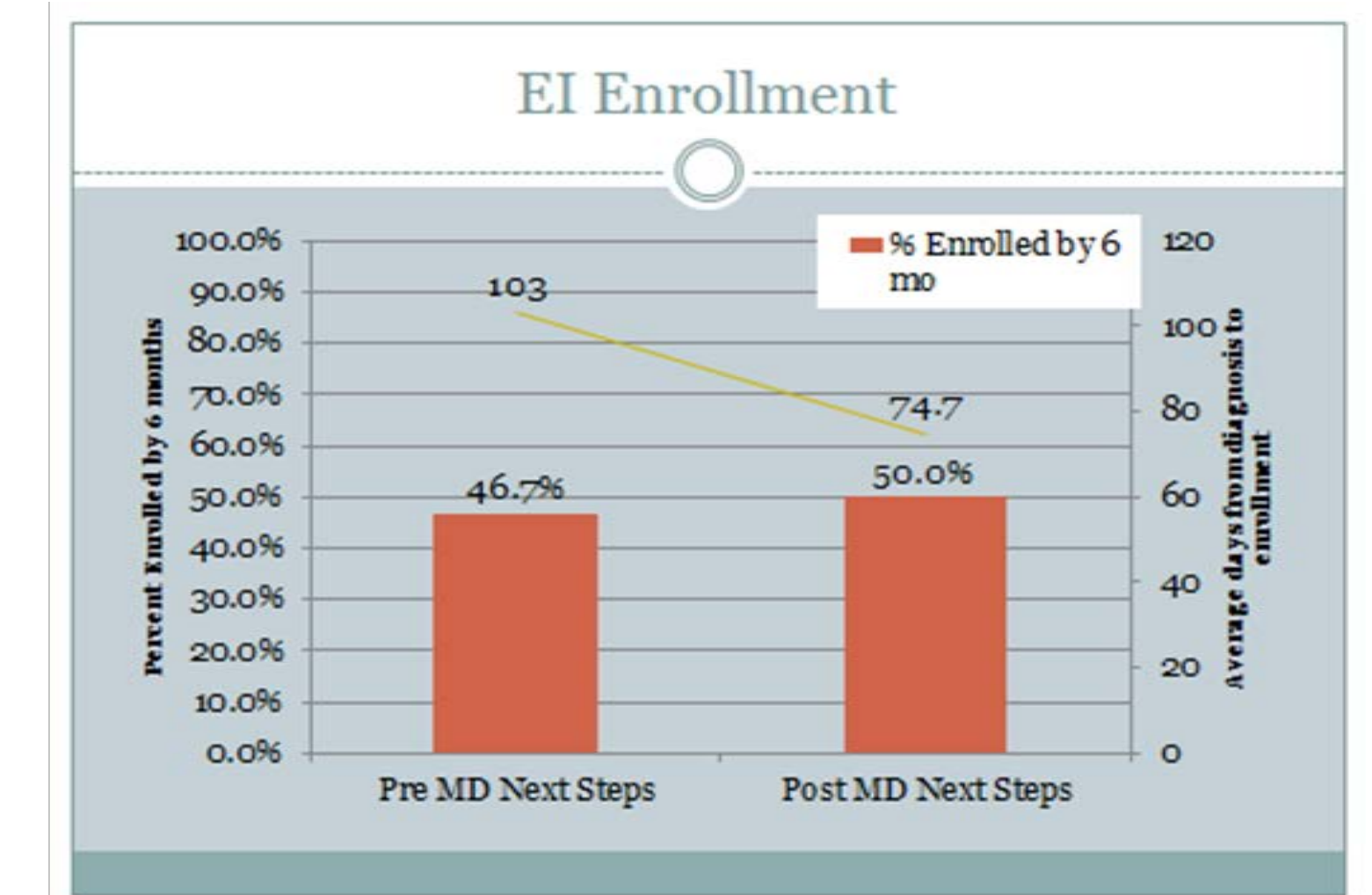
- To improve timely Early Intervention (EI) enrollment for infants diagnosed with hearing loss by 3% in two years.
- To improve timely diagnosis of hearing loss in babies with canal atresia by 3% in 2 years.

**Method**

- With the PDSA model for QI, used Next Steps Checklists with revisions and expansions in cycles, medical homes/family were sent Next Steps Checklists when hearing loss was identified/ reported to EHDI.
- With the PDSA model for QI, used Next Steps Checklists with revisions and expansions in cycles, medical homes/families/New Jersey State Case Management Units were sent Atresia Next Steps Checklists when atresia was identified/ reported to EHDI.

**Results**  
Achieved aims by over 3%

**Conclusion**  
It works! The Next Steps Checklist is an effective tool to improve follow-up hearing follow-up and intervention. Utilizing PDSA Cycles allowed for effective fine tuning, expansion and eventual adoption of this process.



**Atresia Next Steps**

	DOB: Jan-Jun 2013 (before Next Steps)	DOB: Jan-Jun 2014 (Next Steps Sent)
Cases Atresia identified	15	12
Dx ABR complete before 90 days	50.0%	58.33%
Enrolled in EI before 180 days	31.25%	41.7%

- Atlantiacare Regional Medical Center**
- Increased parents awareness of the first steps to take when their baby refers
  - Timely follow up improved from 40% before Next Steps to 56% after initiating Next Steps
  - More timely contact to Insurance companies
  - Prescriptions obtained for rescreen at first pediatric appointment (within the first week)
  - Parents can restate that the test should be repeated before the baby is 1 month of age

