Better Ways to Break Bad News

★ Prepare for the discussion

A private place
Enough time for questions and concerns
Both parents or a family member present if possible

Review record
Take a minute to calm yourself

★ Communication tips

Body language open and equal, not closed or status-laden

Simple words, slow pace

Start with specific observable signs/symptoms

Listen and paraphrase parents’ emotions

Check that parents understand what you say

Describe the next steps