

Why does my baby need Newborn Screening tests?

- Most babies are healthy when they are born.
- A few babies look healthy but have a hidden rare health problem.
- Babies who are born with these diseases usually seem normal at birth. Most do not have a family history of these diseases. We test **all** babies to find the ones who may need treatment.
- If we find problems early, we can help prevent serious problems like mental retardation or death.
- Make sure your baby is tested!

How will my baby be tested?

- Before your baby is tested, a nurse will answer any questions you may have about newborn screening. If you do not want your baby tested, you will have to sign a form refusing testing and taking responsibility for that decision. Please think it over carefully. Your baby is depending on you.
- Before you leave the hospital, a nurse will take a few drops of blood from your baby's heel.
- The hospital sends the blood to the newborn screening lab.
- If your baby is not born in the hospital make sure you have a plan with your baby's doctor to get this testing.

How will I get the results of the test?

- Parents will be notified if there is a problem with the test results.
- You should check with the doctor at your child's next well baby visit to make sure they have the results.

Why do babies need to be retested?

- Tests performed when the baby is only a few days old may miss some problems. So we recommend that all babies have a second test after they are 7 days old.
- Babies who were tested before they are 24 hours (1 day) old **must be retested ASAP** as well as having the routine 2nd screen.
- Sometimes retests are needed because the test results indicate the baby has a higher chance of having one of the health conditions on the Newborn screen. If your baby needs to be retested, a nurse or genetic counselor from the state health department will call you or send you a letter that will tell you what you need to do.

**** If your baby needs to be retested, get it done right away.**

**** Make sure that your hospital and doctor have your correct address and phone numbers. Make sure the hospital has the name and contact information for your baby's pediatrician. This is important so we can contact you quickly about an abnormal result and so your baby's doctor can get a copy of the results.**

Will my baby have other screening tests in the hospital?

- Hearing is tested in the hospital before you leave.
- You should be notified of these results before you leave the hospital or you can call the Infant Hearing Program.



My Questions

- Ask your doctor if you have questions or concerns.
- The doctors, nurses and genetic counselors at the state health department are here to help you. See the back of this brochure for our contact information.

In Maryland, babies are tested for more than 50 rare diseases.

Babies are also tested for hearing loss.



If we find out about the disease early enough, we can help to prevent serious problems.

If your baby's test results are not normal, most of your questions will be answered by visiting our website, or feel free to contact us directly!

Newborn Screening Contact:

Phone- (410)-767-6736 or (410)-767-6708

Newborn Hearing Contact:

Phone-1-800-6331316 or 410-767-5803

Email-NBSfollowup@dhmh.state.md.us

Web- dhmh.maryland.gov/labs/html/nbs.html

Your Baby's First Test



**A test that could save
your baby's life.**