

Newborn Screening Tests . . . They could save your baby's life



Why does my baby need newborn screening tests?

- Most babies are healthy when they are born.
- We test all babies because a few babies look healthy but have a rare health problem.
- If we find problems early, we can help prevent serious problems like mental retardation or death.

How will my baby be tested?

- Before you leave the hospital, a nurse will take a few drops of blood from your baby's heel.
- The hospital will send the blood samples to a newborn screening lab.

How will I get the results of the test?

- Parents are notified of test results if there is a problem.
- Ask about results when you see your baby's health professional.

Why do some babies need to be retested?

- Your baby may be retested if you leave the hospital before 24 hours.
- Some States require a second test on all babies.
- Some babies need to be retested because there is a problem with the blood sample.
- A few babies need to be retested because the first test showed a possible health problem.



What if my baby needs to be retested?

- Your baby's health professional or the State Health Department will contact you if your baby needs to be retested. They will tell you why the baby needs to be retested and what to do next.
- If your baby needs to be retested, get it done right away.
- Make sure that your hospital and health professional have your correct address and phone number.

What if I have questions?

- Ask your baby's health professional if you have questions or concerns.