

For more information about your state's newborn screening program, including the specific conditions tested for, please contact:

Connecticut

State of Connecticut, Public Health Laboratory
10 Clinton Street, P.O. Box 1689
Hartford, CT 06144
(860) 509-8081
www.ct.gov/dph

Maine

Newborn Screening Program, Dept. of Health & Human Services
Key Bank Plaza - 7th Floor, 286 Water Street
Augusta, ME 04333
(207) 287-5357
www.maine.gov/dhhs/boh/cshn/bloodspot_screening/index.html

Massachusetts

New England Newborn Screening Program
University of Massachusetts Medical School
305 South Street
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130-3515
(617) 983-6300
www.umassmed.edu/nbs

New Hampshire

Maternal & Child Health Section
29 Hazen Drive
Concord, NH 03301-6504
(603) 271-4225
www.dhhs.state.nh.us/dhhs/mch.htm

Rhode Island

Rhode Island Department of Health
3 Capitol Hill, Room 302
Providence, RI 02908-5097
(800) 942-7434
www.health.ri.gov/genetics/newborn.php

Vermont

Vermont Department of Health, Children with Special Health Needs
108 Cherry Street, P.O. Box 70
Burlington, VT 05402
(802) 951-5180

Newborn Screening Tests: They Could Save Your Baby's Life



Sponsored in part by a grant from the Genetic Services Branch of the Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and the New England Regional Genetics and Newborn Screening Collaborative, HRSA Grant #1U22MC03959

Why does my baby need newborn screening tests?

By law, all newborns are tested for several rare but serious medical conditions. Babies with these conditions may look healthy at birth. If not treated, these conditions can cause health problems such as mental retardation, slow growth, and even death. With treatment, these problems may be prevented.

How will my baby be tested?

A nurse or other medical professional will take a few drops of blood from your baby's heel. This blood sample is sent to a newborn screening laboratory.

When should the blood sample be taken?

The blood should be drawn after your baby is 24 hours old, but before your baby leaves the hospital.

How will I get the test results?

Your baby's doctor will contact you if the results suggest that your baby may have one of these conditions. The doctor will talk with you about the results and what needs to be done next.

Ask about the test results when you see your baby's doctor.

What if my baby needs to be retested?

Sometimes, a baby needs to be tested again. This does not necessarily mean that your baby has a medical condition. Retesting may need to be done if:

- The blood sample was taken before your baby was 24 hours old
- There was a problem with the way the blood sample was taken
- The first test showed a possible medical condition

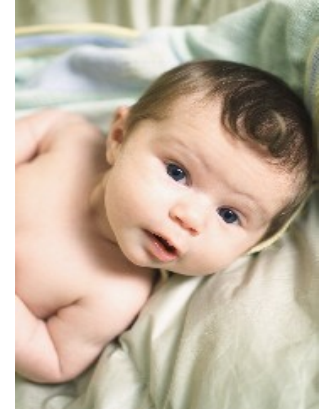
Your baby's doctor or your state's newborn screening program will contact you if your baby needs more testing. It is important to get this testing done right away.



What tests are done?

The tests that are done depend on the state you live in. Each state tests for a slightly different list of conditions. In general, the conditions that are tested for fall into one of the following groups:

- Metabolic conditions, which affect how the body processes food
- Endocrine conditions, which affect the levels of important hormones
- Hemoglobin conditions, which affect the blood and cause anemia, infections, and other health problems
- A pulmonary condition, which affects growth and the lungs



For a list of the conditions tested for in your state, contact your state's newborn screening program or ask your baby's doctor.

Testing for more conditions may be available at other laboratories for a fee.

How are these conditions treated?

The treatment for each condition is different. Treatment may include a special diet, hormones, and/or medications.

If your baby has one of these conditions, it is very important to start the treatment as soon as possible.

What if I have more questions?

Ask your baby's doctor or contact your state's newborn screening program. Please see the back of this brochure for a list of newborn screening programs in New England.