

Public Health Genetics Newborn Screening

What to Know After Your Baby Arrives



Every baby born in Indiana is required by state law to complete newborn screening. Babies with disorders may look and act like healthy newborns but may have a medical condition that could cause serious illness, developmental delay or even death.

Newborn screening is a set of three screens that identify more than 30 disorders. The three screens are completed at the birthing facility 24-48 hours after birth. Learn more about the screens below and scan the QR code for more information.

Dried Blood Spot (DBS) Screening

A dried blood spot (DBS) screen is a quick and simple blood test done through a heel stick. Small spots of blood are collected after birth by pricking the baby's heel and placing blood on special filter paper. This blood, called blood spots, is sent to the newborn screening laboratory where it is then tested for more than 30 rare, life-threatening genetic conditions. Your child's health care provider will give you the results when they are available. This is usually at the first well-child visit.



Critical Congenital Heart Disease (CCHD) Screening

Critical congenital heart disease (CCHD) screen is a quick, painless, and gentle test done through pulse oximetry to measure how much oxygen a baby has in their blood and how healthy a baby's heart and lungs are. CCHD is a broad term that refers to several different heart defects; seven different CCHDs can be detected by pulse oximetry screening. Each of these heart defects require treatment, often involving surgery, to correct them soon after birth. If a baby has CCHD and does not receive treatment shortly after birth, the baby has a higher chance of developing serious health outcomes, including death.

Hearing Screening

Your baby should have their hearing screened before leaving the hospital or by the time they are one month old. This hearing screen will show if your baby's hearing is normal or if they need more tests. It's quick, easy, and can be done while your baby is sleeping. Hearing loss can delay how your baby learns to speak and use language. In Indiana, a baby is born with hearing loss about every two days. If your baby does have hearing loss, there are services and resources available to help your child and family. Studies show that babies who are identified with hearing loss before they are 3 months old and get help by 6 months old can learn and use language like other children.

The Importance of Choosing a Pediatrician

Choosing a doctor before your baby arrives can save you a lot of stress and ensure your little one gets the best care from the beginning. Be sure your birthing facility or birth provider has the name of your baby's doctor and their contact information. Your baby's newborn screening results will be shared with your baby's doctor. If your baby needs more testing, your baby's doctor will contact you to discuss next steps.

**Want more information?
Contact us!**

NewbornScreening@health.in.gov

Public Health Genetics Program
Indiana Department of Health
www.NBS.in.gov
phone: 888-815-0006

Early Hearing Detection & Intervention Program
Indiana Department of Health
www.Hearing.in.gov
phone: 317-232-0972

Your Baby's Newborn Screening Results



Your baby _____ born _____
(name) (birthdate)
received the following screenings at _____
(hospital/clinic name)

Results of your baby's dried blood spot screening:

If everything looks OK, the results are sent to your baby's health care provider. **Ask for your baby's results at the first newborn visit!** If there might be a problem, the lab will call your baby's health care provider. Screening can only tell if your baby **might** have a health problem; we won't know for sure until your baby has more testing. Your baby's health care provider will talk to you about what needs to happen next. **See the "After Newborn Screening" handout for more information about dried blood spot consent and storage.**

Results of your baby's CCHD screening:

☐ **Pass** – Your baby didn't show signs of a low level of oxygen in the blood and is unlikely to have a CCHD but watch for any symptoms.

☐ **Did not pass** – Your baby showed low levels of oxygen in the blood and may have a possible CCHD. Refer to your doctor or cardiologist for next steps with diagnostic testing via an echocardiogram.

If the CCHD screen is passed, continue to watch for the following signs for any late onset CCHDs after leaving the hospital. **If you notice any of these symptoms, it's time to call your doctor.**

- Loss of healthy skin color
- Blueish tint to the lips
- Fast or troubled breathing
- Swelling or puffiness of the face, hands and feet
- Poor weight gain

Results of your baby's hearing screening:

Date: _____ Left ear: Pass Did not pass Right ear: Pass Did not pass

☐ **Pass:** Your baby likely has normal hearing.

☐ **Pass with risk factors:** Your baby should have hearing tested at 9-12 months of age by a pediatric audiologist due to the risk factor of: _____

☐ **Did not pass:** Your baby needs a follow-up hearing test.

Your baby is scheduled for an outpatient rescreening on _____

Your baby should receive a diagnostic hearing test by a pediatric audiologist within 3 months.

Audiologist Name/Location: _____

Phone: _____ List of pediatric audiologists: www.hearing.in.gov