

Public Health Genetics Newborn Screening

What to Know Before 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 three 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 performed 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 see 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

The Impact of Newborn Screening



Dried Blood Spot (DBS) Screening



Scan here to meet Alison and her son, Grant, who was diagnosed with *Pompe Disease* through dried blood spot screening. Learn how early detection through newborn screening made a difference in Grant's life and why this test matters.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fFZpIAmjCSE>

Critical Congenital Heart Disease (CCHD) Screening

Scan here to learn more about Jennifer and her daughter, Madison, who was diagnosed with two birth defects - *pulmonary stenosis* and *atrial septal defect* - identified through CCHD screening. Learn more about CCHD screening and how it played a major role in Madison's journey.

<https://www.in.gov/health/gnbs/information-for-families/family-stories/>



Hearing Screening



Scan here to hear stories from families whose newborns did not pass the hearing screening. Learn more about the importance of knowing the hearing screening results and how babies can receive the best care. <https://vimeo.com/542185866>

Newborn Screening Resources

Want more information? Contact us at

NewbornScreening@health.in.gov or 888-815-0006 and scan here for additional newborn screening resources!

<https://www.in.gov/health/gnbs/information-for-families/>



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