

Colorado's Newborn Screening Program

Don't wait. These simple tests protect your baby.

While you and your newborn baby are still in the hospital, your baby will have three simple tests, which are important in protecting your baby's health. Your baby will receive these tests at the hospital at 1-2 days old.

- **Hearing Screening** to make sure your baby has normal hearing (immediate results)
- **Heart Screening** to make sure your baby's heart is healthy (immediate results)
- **Newborn Screening** to test your baby for more than 35 rare but very serious diseases (results within a few days)

Language starts to develop very early, even before your baby is able to speak. This is why it is important to test babies by one month old to find babies who are deaf or hard of hearing before they are three months old so they can benefit from different ways to learn language. Your baby will be tested at 1-2 days old.

HEARING SCREENING

Why do babies need hearing screening? One out of every 500 babies is deaf or hard of hearing. Many are healthy and may be the only family member born this way.

How is the hearing screening done? A special machine will show if your baby responds to sounds. The test is simple and does not hurt. In fact, many babies sleep through it.

What if my baby does not pass the hearing screening? A follow up test will confirm.

Be sure to follow recommendations for additional testing and treatment. Talk to your child's doctor if you have any questions.

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Heart Screening is a painless test to measure oxygen levels in a newborn's blood.

HEART SCREENING

Why do babies need heart screenings? This test may identify serious, life-threatening heart defects known as critical congenital heart disease.

How is the heart screening done? A nurse or technician will place a sensor on the baby's skin so a machine called a pulse oximeter can measure if blood oxygen levels are low.

What if the results are not normal? Your baby will receive three additional tests at different times of day before leaving the hospital. If the oxygen level is still low, a nurse will perform more tests and continue to observe your baby before leaving the hospital. Your baby may need additional treatment.

Newborn Screening is a simple and safe blood test to check to see if your baby has any rare, but serious diseases. If treated early, most babies will live healthy lives.

Why do babies need newborn screening? Most newborn babies are healthy. However, some newborn babies look healthy but are actually very sick. We test all babies to find the sick babies.

NEWBORN SCREENING

When will my baby be tested? Your baby will be tested at the hospital at 1-2 days old, then at 1 to 2 weeks old, in case anything was missed on the 1st test.

What should I do if my baby's newborn screening results are not normal? Most newborn screening test results are normal. If the results are not, it means there might be a problem and your baby needs more tests. Your baby's doctor will be notified by phone immediately.

Most babies who have abnormal results are actually **healthy**, but the only way to know is by more testing. Your baby might need to see a specialist. Get any more testing your baby needs right away!

Be sure to follow recommendations for additional testing and treatment. Talk to your child's doctor if you have any questions.

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