



What Every Parent Should Know

Georgia Newborn Screening Program

As a parent, you want to do all you can to make sure your baby is healthy!

Before leaving the hospital, your baby will receive important tests called newborn screenings. These tests help find serious health issues early, so doctors can help right away. Most babies are born healthy; however, some babies can have a serious medical condition even though they look and act like other babies.

These screenings will be completed soon after your baby is born to check your **baby's blood, heart, and hearing**.



Blood Screening (Dried Blood Spot)

- Within 1-2 days of birth, a few drops of blood are taken from your baby's heel and tested for over 35 serious conditions that can lead to disability or even death if not identified early in a baby's life.
- Results are typically available within 7-10 days.
- If a second test is needed, bring your baby to their doctor's office as soon as you can. Quick action is very important to help protect your baby.

Critical Congenital Heart Disease (CCHD) Screening

- A small sensor is placed on your baby's foot and another one on their hand to check oxygen levels in their blood and to look for problems with their heart.
- This test is quick and doesn't cause any discomfort.
- Results are available immediately after the test is completed.
- If any heart problems are suspected, your baby will be referred or transferred to a specialist for more tests and treatment.

Hearing Screening

- Most babies with hearing loss are born to hearing parents.

HEARING SCREENING (CONTINUED)

- Soft sounds are played in your baby's ears and responses are measured.
- Hearing screening is safe and painless and is the most efficient way to know if your baby can hear.
- Results are available immediately after the test is completed.
- If your baby fails the hearing screening at birth, the test may be repeated one more time. If your baby fails again, schedule an outpatient hearing screening as soon as possible (ideally before 1 month of age).

If your baby fails their final hearing screening before discharge, the birthing facility will complete one additional test for a common infection called congenital cytomegalovirus.

See **dph.ga.gov/EHDI/ccmv** for more information.



What conditions is my baby's blood being screened for?

Amino Acid Disorders:

These affect how the body breaks down proteins, which are important for growth and development. Treatment might involve a special diet and medication.

Endocrine Disorders:

These affect hormones that control body functions. Medication helps prevent complications.

Fatty Acid Oxidation Disorders:

These impact energy production and can harm organs. Treatment includes diet changes and supplements.

Hemoglobin Disorders:

These affect how blood cells carry oxygen. Early detection helps manage care.

Lysosomal Storage Disorders:

These prevent the breakdown of sugars and fats, harming cells and organs. Treatments include therapy and medication.

Organic Acid Disorders:

These cause harmful acid buildup. Treatment involves diet changes and use of specific vitamins.

Other Disorders:

Various conditions that have different treatments and interventions. Some of the conditions include cystic fibrosis (CF), Krabbe disease (KD), and severe combined immunodeficiencies (SCID).

A list of the current conditions included in Georgia's newborn screening panel can be found at **dph.ga.gov/NBS**.

What do the newborn screening results mean for my baby?

If your baby's test results are positive, abnormal or inconclusive it may just mean they need more testing. If you're worried about your baby's health or have questions about the test results, talk to your baby's doctor.

How do I get my baby's newborn screening results?

Critical congenital heart disease and hearing screening results should be shared with you immediately after the test. Blood screening results usually take about a week after the test and are reported to the facility that performed the testing and your primary pediatric health-care provider. Ask your baby's doctor for a copy of the results. Georgia's Newborn Screening Program will contact your baby's doctor sooner if there are any concerns.

A copy of your baby's newborn screening report can be requested through the Georgia Newborn Screening Program.

Visit **dph.ga.gov/NBS** to learn more about requesting a report.



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