

## Parent Responsibilities

If you are asked to bring your baby in for re-testing, do it as soon as you can. If a problem exists, quick action is very important.

### Reminder

- Make sure your correct address and phone number are given to the hospital where your baby is born.
- If you do not have a telephone, give the phone number of someone who knows how to reach you.
- Give the name and phone number of the doctor who will take care of your baby after leaving the hospital so that information can be written on your baby's screening card.
- At your baby's first visit, give the doctor the pink parent slip you received after your baby's test was done, as a reminder to check your baby's results.
- If you plan to have your baby at home, the doctor, midwife or attendant that delivers your baby will tell you where and when to get your baby tested.



## Newborn blood screening

is an important test that should be performed on your baby before leaving the hospital. Make sure you talk to your baby's doctor about this test so that you can do all you can to be sure your baby receives the care he or she needs. Early treatment of disease increases your baby's chances for healthy growth.

**To contact your local Children 1st Coordinator, call the Powerline number 800-822-2539. For more information, contact Georgia Newborn Screening Program at 404-657-4143.**

### Websites:

- **Newborn Blood Screening:**  
[health.state.ga.us/programs/nsmscd](http://health.state.ga.us/programs/nsmscd)  
<http://www.babysfirsttest.org>

Georgia Department of Public Health,  
Maternal & Child Health Section  
2 Peachtree St., NW | Atlanta, GA 30303



# Georgia Newborn Screening Program



Before you leave the hospital, **have your baby screened.**

## As a parent...

You want to do all you can to make sure your child is healthy. One thing that can help is to have your newborn baby tested for serious conditions- **before** you leave the hospital. Blood Screening is an important test for new babies:

**Newborn blood screening** is a test required by Georgia law and can find serious diseases during the newborn period.

Most babies appear healthy and show no signs of being sick right after birth. Newborn blood screening can identify diseases early so that treatment, including medications or special formulas can be given to your baby.

**Newborn blood screening** can find the following diseases listed below:

These diseases can kill or cause brain damage within the first few days or weeks of a baby's life. All these diseases are treatable and it is important to get treatment early. Make sure to ask before you leave the hospital if your baby's blood has been taken for these tests:

- Sickle Cell Disorders
- PKU (Phenylketonuria)
- Galactosemia
- Maple Syrup Urine Disease
- Hypothyroidism
- Cystic Fibrosis (CF)
- Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia (CAH)
- Tyrosinemia
- Homocystinuria
- Biotinidase Deficiency
- Medium-chain Acyl Co-A Dehydrogenase (MCAD) Deficiency and other Fatty Acid Oxidation Disorders
- Organic Acid Disorders
- Urea Cycle Disorders

Talk to your baby's doctor about these diseases if you have questions, or are concerned about your baby's screening results.

**The Test** is usually performed when your baby is 24 to 48 hours old.



Your newborn baby's heel will be pricked to get several drops of blood. The drops of blood are sent to the state lab for screening.

### **Identification and Treatment**

Your hospital or doctor will receive a copy of the blood screening results. You should talk to your doctor about these results at your baby's first doctor visit, which is usually scheduled a week after the baby goes home.

**Georgia law requires that all babies sent home before they are 24 hours-old return to their doctor to have the test done before the child is one week of age.**

A new blood sample is needed from your baby to repeat the screen if the first sample:

- was not properly collected, or arrived late at the state lab
- was taken before your baby was 24 hours old
- shows a possible problem

