



What Every Parent Should Know

Georgia Newborn Screening Program

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

Most babies with serious disorders appear healthy and show no signs of being sick right after birth.

The following tests can find serious diseases during the newborn period and are required by Georgia law:

- Hearing Screening
- Blood Screening
- Critical Congenital Heart Disease (CCHD) Screening

Confirm that your newborn baby has been screened for serious conditions BEFORE YOU LEAVE THE HOSPITAL.

BABIES BORN OUTSIDE OF A HOSPITAL, BIRTHING CENTER OR OTHER HEALTH CARE FACILITY ALSO REQUIRE SCREENING.

The attendant that delivers your baby will tell you where and when to get your baby tested.

Hearing Screening

- More than half of babies born with hearing problems are otherwise healthy and have no family history of hearing loss.
- Hearing screening is safe and painless and is the most efficient way to know that your baby can hear.
- If your baby does not pass the hearing screen in the hospital, talk with his or her doctor to have hearing tested again by 1 month of age.
- Early detection of hearing loss and early intervention can help your baby develop to their full potential.

Blood Screening

- Tests for over 25 disorders.
- All of the disorders are treatable and it is important to get treatment early.
- Several drops of blood will be taken from your baby's heel at 24 to 48 hours old.
- If a repeat test is needed, bring your baby into their doctor's office as soon as you can. If a problem exists, quick action is very important.

CCHD Screening

- Pulse oximetry screening is a simple, painless test that is used to measure the amount of oxygen in the blood and detect CCHD.
- If a baby is identified as possibly having CCHD, the baby will be referred or transferred to a specialist for further evaluation and treatment.



Blood Screening

Newborn blood screening is a test that can find serious disorders that can lead to disability or death if not identified early in a baby's life.

Metabolic blood disorders usually occur when the body doesn't make enough substances to keep the body healthy and functioning.

Newborn blood screening can also identify other problems in babies that affect their hormones, the ability to fight infections, and problems with hemoglobin in the blood.

Blood Screening

The following tests can find serious disorders during the newborn period and are required by Georgia law:

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

If you have questions about newborn blood screening, please contact:

Georgia Newborn Screening Program
404.657.4143



Krabbe Disease

Krabbe Disease is not included in the routine newborn screen (NBS) in Georgia. However, if you want your baby tested for Krabbe, there are resources available to help.

Krabbe is a serious disorder that can cause the protective layer around the nerve cells in the brain to weaken. Without this layer, the brain cannot work as it should.

Krabbe is very rare and only affects about 1 in 100,000 people in the United States. Doctors have had some success in treating Krabbe but treatment must begin as soon as possible.

Plans for screening must begin before the birth of the child. The test must be ordered by your child's doctor. The cost of Krabbe screening is the family's responsibility.

How to get Krabbe Screening

If you choose to have your baby screened for Krabbe, your child's doctor can order the screening through any of the laboratories listed below:

Hunter's Hope:

huntershope.org/newborn-screening

Perkin Elmer Genetics:

perkinelmer.com/genetics

EGL Genetics:

egl-eurofins.com

It is important that the Krabbe tests are collected within a few days of birth and sent immediately to the chosen lab. Talk with your child's doctor about who will collect the sample for Krabbe screening once your baby is born.

Results will be sent to your child's doctor. If the results are abnormal, the doctor should immediately contact the geneticist on call at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta.

If you have questions about Krabbe screening, please contact one of the following:

NBS Short-term Follow-up Program:

404.778.8560

NBS Program Office:

404.657.4143

Georgia Public Health Laboratory:

404.327.7900