

What to expect for your Baby's First Test

There are nearly 4 million babies born in the United States each year. While most babies are born healthy, some infants are born with a serious but treatable medical condition. These conditions can be present in any family, even those without a family history of them.

Newborn screening helps health professionals to identify and treat these conditions before they make a baby sick.



Newborn screening usually happens 24 hours after your baby is born, before you leave the hospital.



You do not need to request the screening. **It is standard at hospitals.**



The conditions newborns are screened for differ in each state. **Most states screen for 29 of the 34 conditions** recommended by the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

Each year, **12,000** babies with serious, but treatable conditions grow up healthy, thanks to newborn screening.

Talk to your healthcare provider about newborn screening.



To learn more, visit BabysFirstTest.org

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The Three Steps

There are three parts to newborn screening:



Heel Stick

A small blood sample is taken from your baby's heel and placed on a newborn screening card. This card is mailed to a state laboratory for analysis. If an out-of-range result is detected, your baby's health provider will be notified immediately.



Hearing Test

One of two tests may be used to screen for hearing loss in your baby: an otoacoustic emissions or an auditory brainstem response. Both tests are simple, safe and can be done while your baby is asleep!



Pulse Oximetry

Pulse oximetry is a test that measures the amount of oxygen in your baby's blood and can detect some heart problems called Critical Congenital Heart Disease (CCHD).



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