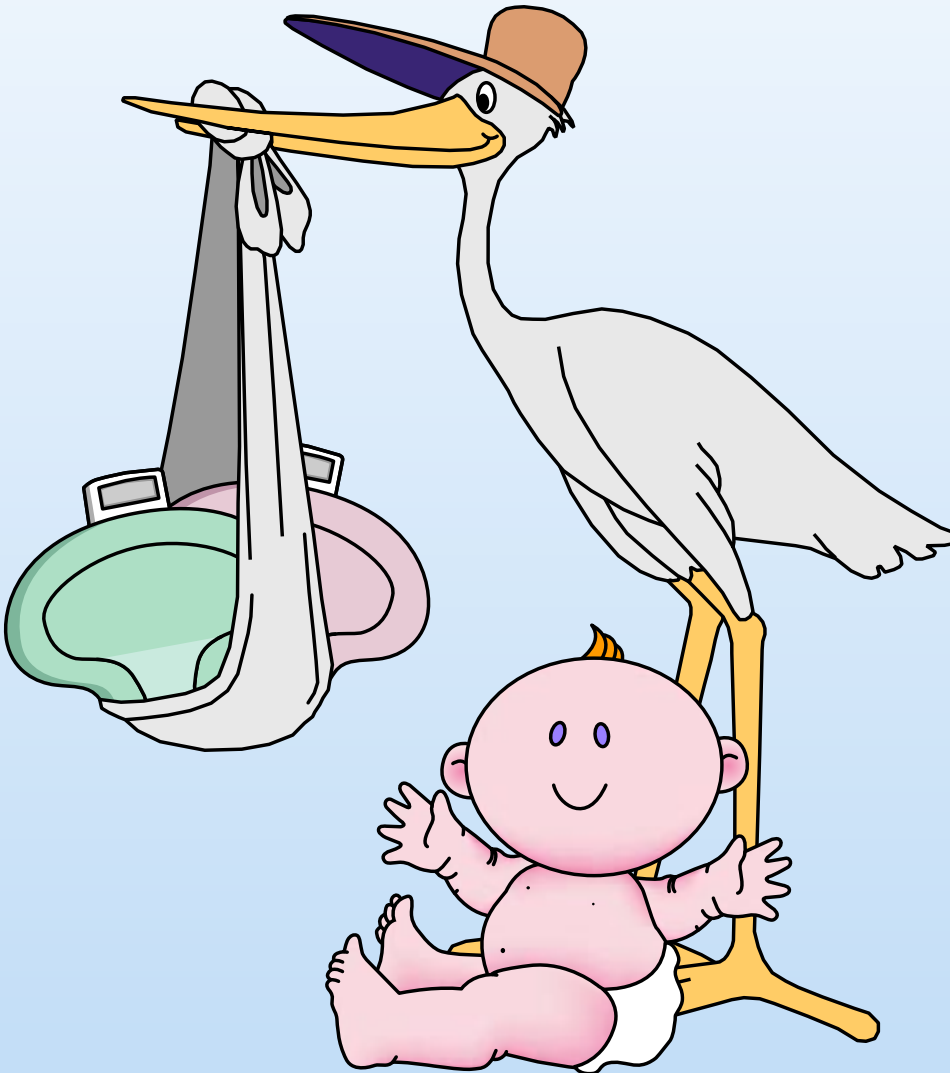




When a Blood Sample Is Taken From Your Baby:





What Is Newborn Screening and Why Does My Baby Need It?

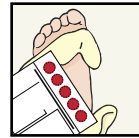
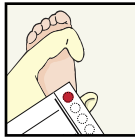
Newborn screening (often referred to as the “PKU test”) is usually performed when your baby is 1 – 2 days old. It checks your baby for certain serious medical conditions that may go undetected without such testing. Early detection and treatment of these conditions can help prevent death, mental retardation, or physical disability.

All states and the District of Columbia require newborn screening to be performed on babies who are born in that state, although the exact range of conditions being screened for may vary from state to state.



How Is the Test Performed?

The first step is to make a small incision (1.75mm – 2.50mm in length) on your baby’s heel (commonly known as a “heelstick”). A few drops of blood from your baby’s heel are then placed on a special type of filter paper.



The paper is allowed to dry and is then sent to a newborn screening laboratory where several different tests are performed. The conditions that are screened for will vary by state; however, Phenylketonuria (PKU), Hypothyroidism, and Galactosemia are examples of conditions for which tests are typically performed.



But We Have No Family History of These Conditions...

Your baby may be born with one of these conditions, even if you have no family history of problems and/or you have already had healthy children. In fact, most children who are diagnosed with one of these conditions come from families with no previous history of the condition.



But My Baby Looks Healthy...

Babies with these conditions may look and act like normal, healthy babies. Newborn screening helps your doctor diagnose a serious medical condition prior to your baby showing any symptoms. Most babies who are diagnosed and treated early live normal lives. The earlier a condition is detected, the greater chance your baby has of living a normal, healthy life.



If My Baby Has One of These Medical Conditions, Can It Be Cured?

These conditions cannot be cured, just as eye color cannot be permanently changed. However, the serious effects of these conditions can be controlled and even prevented through early detection and treatment.



If a Retest Is Necessary, Does That Mean That My Baby Has One of These Medical Conditions?

There are many reasons why the laboratory may decide to retest your baby. The most common reason is that the first sample did not contain enough blood to complete all of the required tests. This does NOT necessarily mean that there is anything wrong with your baby. It simply means that another sample of your baby's blood is required to complete all of the necessary tests.

If the results of the first tests are questionable, or suggest a possible problem, a new blood sample will be requested and the tests will be repeated. When the results are unusual for a second time, the doctor will talk with you about the need for further medical testing. For a few of the very serious conditions, the doctor may start treating the baby immediately and additional tests may be requested.



How Can I Make It Easier for the Doctor to Help My Baby?

If your doctor asks you to bring your baby in for retesting, do so as soon as possible. If your child is diagnosed with a medical condition, prompt action is very important. Be sure to give your correct address and phone number to the hospital or doctor. If you don't have a telephone, leave the phone number of a friend, relative, or neighbor with the doctor or the hospital. If you change your home address soon after the baby is born, let your doctor know immediately. Then, if your child needs retesting, your doctor will know where to reach you.

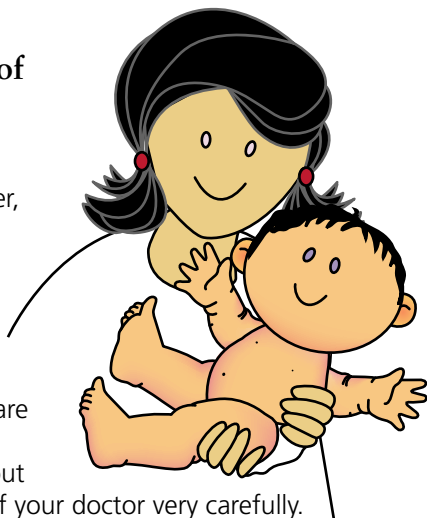


How Will I Know the Results of My Baby's Tests?

Usually, parents are only notified of the test results if there is a problem. However, it is a good idea to call your doctor and request the results of the newborn screening. This is important to ensure that your child's test results have not been lost or misplaced.

If the results of any of your baby's tests are abnormal, the doctor should notify you immediately and give you directions about what to do next. Follow the directions of your doctor very carefully.

If the results of your baby's tests are normal, they will be mailed to your physician approximately 2 weeks after the screening was performed.



Has Care Been Taken to Make This Procedure as Minimally Uncomfortable to My Baby as Possible?

This institution has selected a device that will make the incision on your baby's heel to a precisely controlled depth (0.85mm – 1.00mm). The controlled depth incision follows guidelines set forth by NCCLS, an organization that is recognized globally for the development of guidelines for patient testing and related healthcare issues. Devices in compliance with these guidelines help prevent contact with the heel bone, ensuring minimal discomfort to your baby.

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Preanalytical Solutions**

1 Becton Drive
Franklin Lakes, NJ 07417 USA

www.bd.com/vacutainer