

Purpose of Newborn Screening

The goal of newborn screening is to detect treatable disorders before they cause damage to a newborn. Every baby born in Connecticut receives a newborn screening (NBS) bloodspot test in the hospital. This is done by taking a few drops of blood from the baby's heel one to two days after birth. The blood is sent to the Connecticut State Public Health Laboratory where it is tested for over 60 health problems. Results are sent to your child's doctor. Newborn screening tests for treatable health problems.



Please schedule an appointment with your baby's doctor to collect the repeat bloodspot screen as soon as possible (usually within two days is fine unless you are told otherwise).

Newborn Screening Next Steps

Your doctor has told you that your baby needs a repeat NBS bloodspot test. This does not mean your baby is sick. Some reasons parents are asked to bring their babies back for repeat screening are:

- **Abnormal or borderline abnormal result:** a borderline abnormal result means the test was almost normal, but not quite.
- **Sample collected too early:** before baby was 24 hours of age.
- **Treatment/Medication:** the baby or mom was given treatment or medication that interfered with results.
- **Quality of Sample:** a problem occurred with the collection and/or handling of the blood sample
- **Your baby was born early** (prematurely).

Results of Repeat Screen

The results of the repeat NBS will be given to your child's doctor.

The good news is that the results of most repeat screens are normal. If the repeat newborn screen results are normal, no further testing or treatment is needed.

A second abnormal or borderline NBS result does not mean your baby is sick. It just means further follow-up is needed. Your doctor may order some additional tests and/or may ask you to follow-up with a doctor that specializes in NBS disorders to get the answers you need. It is important that you complete the recommended tests so the doctor can tell your whether your baby has a disorder.

Visit our website for more information on NBS by scanning the QR code

