

North Carolina's Newborn Screening Program



Most newborns are born healthy. However, there are some health problems that may not be found on a routine exam by your baby's doctor. Newborn screening tests are done to see if your baby might have a problem. We do not know for sure until more tests are done.

During your hospital stay, your newborn will receive three screening tests to check for serious health problems that may not be known at birth. The earlier a problem is found the better chance your baby will have for a healthier start in life.



**Blood Spot
(Metabolic) Screening**

Checks for over 35 possible serious health problems.

A few drops of blood are taken from your baby's heel and sent to North Carolina's State Laboratory of Public Health.



Heart Screening

Checks for serious life-threatening heart problems known as critical congenital heart defects (CCHD).

A small sticker will be placed on your baby's right hand and on your baby's foot to measure the amount of oxygen in your baby's blood.



Hearing Screening

Checks for hearing loss.

A special machine looks at your baby's response to sound. The screening needs to happen when the baby is sleeping or very quiet.

Your baby's results.

The blood spot (metabolic) screening takes a few days. Ask your baby's doctor for the results.

Your baby's hearing and heart screening results will be available before your baby leaves the hospital. Ask for your baby's results before you are discharged.

If your doctor asks you to come back for more testing, it is important to do so right away. **Follow up quickly.**

For More Information:

Contact the Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Help Line

Call: 1-800-737-3028

Email: CYSHCN.Helpline@dhhs.nc.gov

Your Baby's First Tests

babysfirsttest.org/newborn-screening/before-birth



NC Screened Conditions and Disorders

slph.ncpublichealth.com/newborn



NC Newborn Screening Services

ncdhhs.gov/dph/wch/families/newbornmetabolic.htm



NC Newborn Hearing Screening Program

ncnewbornhearing.org