

# Is your baby's health on the line?



## Why newborn screening?

Without newborn screening, your baby's life could be on the line! Newborn screening identifies conditions that, while rare, could kill or cause permanent damage, even in the first two weeks of life. Your child could look normal at birth, but still be in a race against the clock for health or life itself!

## What conditions are identified by newborn screening?

The newborn screening process will test your baby for more than 40 conditions, including the following:

- Congenital Hypothyroidism
- Phenylketonuria
- Cystic Fibrosis
- Galactosemia
- Biotinidase Deficiency
- Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia
- Hemoglobinopathies
- Amino Acid Disorders
- Fatty Acid/Organic Acid Disorders

## How is it done?

Two samples are needed to complete the screening process. Some conditions are detected on the first screen and some on the second. Hospitals, birthing centers, and midwives are required to collect the first screening specimen with a simple heel prick before your baby leaves the facility. From that heel prick, a blood spot is placed on a screening card and mailed to a regional laboratory.

The second screening should be done when your baby is 10 to 14 days of age to identify conditions that cannot be found until then. If you were given a second screening card at the time of birth, take it with you to your doctor's office during this time to complete the process. Some hospitals may mail the card directly to your baby's doctor or will ask you to return to their laboratory for the second screening. Your baby's screening sample will not be used for any purpose other than this screening.

## When do I get the results?

About 10 to 14 days after the card is mailed to the laboratory, the test results are reported to the birthing facility and the physician listed on the screening card. Be sure to ask your baby's doctor for the results. For babies born with one of these conditions, early diagnosis and treatment are essential.

## Where can I get more information?

Talk with your doctor, nurse, or midwife.

Visit the following Web sites:  
Oregon State Public Health Laboratory  
<http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/nbs/index.shtml>

National Newborn Screening and Genetics  
Resource Center  
<http://genes-r-us.uthscsa.edu>

**Call Idaho Newborn Screening:  
208-334-5962**



Costs associated with this publication are available from the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare

Amino Acid Disorders Cystic Fibrosis Phenylketonuria Congenital Hypothyroidism Hemoglobinopathies Galactosemia