

Heart Screening



Why should my baby receive this screening?
Some babies are born with heart conditions that can be dangerous if treated late or not treated at all. This screening checks for low oxygen levels in the blood that can tell if your baby has a heart problem or other health concern, like an infection or lung issue.

How is the screening done?
The screening is not painful and is quick. A small sensor is placed on your baby's right hand and one of their feet for about a minute. The results are available immediately.

What if my baby did not pass the screening?
Your baby will be referred to a specialist for additional testing and diagnosis.



General Information

May I say NO to any of the screenings?
Yes, you may say no to any of the screenings for religious reasons. If you don't allow any of these screenings for your baby, you will be asked to complete a parent refusal form.

How does the Program help parents and babies?
The Program will notify your baby's doctor if your baby has an abnormal result for any of the screenings. Program nurses may contact you to find out if your baby received the additional testing that was recommended, if you have received a final diagnosis, or if you have enrolled your baby in Early Intervention.

Important Information For Parents About Newborn Screening



Newborn Screening Roadmap



Baby is Born

3 screenings are done to check your baby's health 24 to 48 hours after birth:

- Blood Spot Screening
- Heart Screening
- Hearing Screening



Hearing and Heart Screens only take a few minutes. Ask for your baby's results at the screening. If your baby did not pass either screen, ask your provider for the next steps.



Blood Spot Screening
Your baby's sample is sent to the lab for testing. Results are available in about 7 days.



Abnormal Results: If the blood spot screening comes back abnormal, your baby's doctor or midwife will be notified. Your baby will need additional testing. Talk to your baby's doctor or midwife to find out next steps.

Normal Results: The results are mailed to your baby's doctor or midwife. Ask for the results at baby's first well visit.

Why Should My Baby Receive Newborn Screening?

For more information visit the newborn screening website at: health.pa.gov, click healthy families, then look for newborn screening under infants or call the Division of Newborn Screening at 717-783-8143

Blood Spot Screening



Why should my baby get this screening?
Most babies look fine when born, but in very rare cases, can have a medical condition that causes serious illness, disability, or death. There are treatments available for these conditions, which is why screening is done. Most babies who are identified early can grow up to be healthy. To see a full list of conditions that your baby may be screened for, visit the Newborn Screening Program (Program) website or talk to your baby's doctor or midwife to find out what conditions can be included in the sample.

How is the screening done?
A few drops of blood are taken from your baby's heel and placed on a filter paper, which is then sent to the newborn screening laboratory for testing. Your baby's doctor or midwife will be notified of the results.

What if my baby has an abnormal result?
You may be asked to take your baby back to the birthing facility or midwife who delivered your baby to have a repeat filter paper completed, or you may be referred to a specialist for additional testing and diagnosis.

What happens to the filter paper after the tests are completed?
The filter paper is kept for one year. After that, the filter paper will be destroyed. At no time will the filter paper be used for research. You can request the filter paper be released to you or your baby's doctor by completing the release form found on the Program's website.

Hearing Screening

Why should my baby get this screening?
It is very hard to determine if babies have hearing loss. They can appear to have normal hearing even when they are unable to hear properly. The hearing screening will check to see if your baby's hearing is normal or if more testing is needed. If your baby can't hear well, they could potentially have development problems. When hearing loss is diagnosed and treated early, your baby can develop skills, like language, at the same rate as a child without hearing loss.

How is the screening done?
A small machine plays soft sounds that measure how well a baby responds to those sounds. The screening is not painful and will be conducted when your baby is sleeping or resting quietly. The results will be available immediately.

What if my baby does not pass the screening?
Your baby may be required to have another hearing screening before one month of age. If your baby does not pass again, you will be referred to a specialist for additional testing and diagnosis.

