

METABOLIC SCREENING

Who?

Every baby born in North Dakota.

What?

Screening for genetic disorders.

When?

Between one and two days of age is the best time for screening.

How?

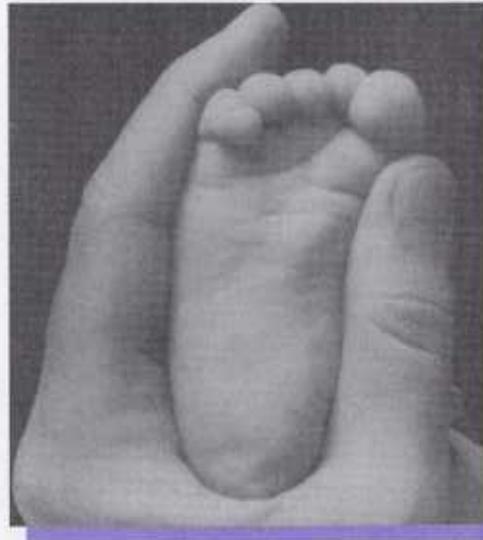
Several small drops of blood, usually from one poke of your baby's heel, are allowed to dry on a special paper and then sent to a laboratory for testing.

Where?

The sample is sent to the University of Iowa Hygienic Laboratory in Ankeny, Iowa.

Ask your health-care provider for more details about North Dakota's Newborn Screening Program, or visit this website:

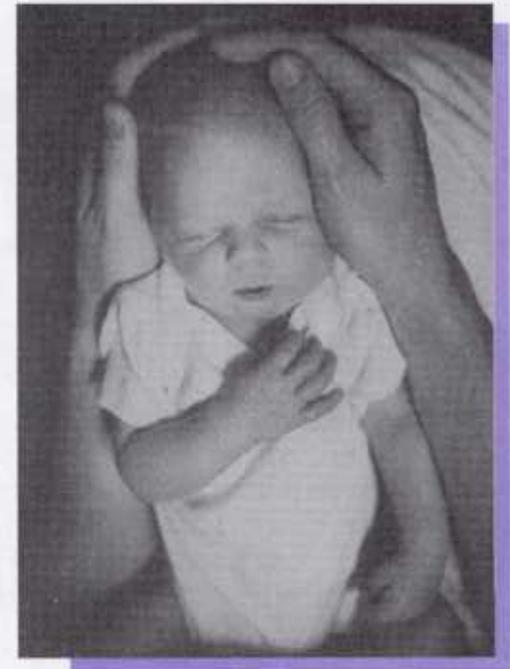
www.ndhealth.gov/familyhealth



North Dakota Department of Health
Division of Family Health
600 E. Boulevard Ave., Dept. 301
Bismarck, ND 58505-0200
800.472.2286 or 701.328.2493

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Screening for a



Healthy Baby



North Dakota
Department of Health
Newborn Screening Program

What Is Newborn Screening?

Newborn screening is a blood test for certain metabolic and inherited disorders. The test is performed shortly after a baby's birth. North Dakota law requires all newborns and infants born in the state to be screened.



The North Dakota Newborn Screening Program identifies babies who may have one of these disorders and alerts the baby's health-care provider to the need for further testing and special care. With early diagnosis and treatment, complications from these serious disorders usually can be prevented.

Why Should My Baby Be Tested?

Babies with certain congenital disorders, often called "hidden birth defects," appear normal at birth. If untreated, these conditions may affect the baby's brain or physical development or cause other medical problems. These conditions can begin to affect the baby in the first days or weeks of life.

These hidden disorders are problems in the body's ability to make and use hormones, proteins, sugars or blood cells. These defects may be found in the blood long before symptoms appear or before they can cause serious damage.

By testing **all** newborns, many of these disorders can be found early. The earlier the physician diagnoses the disorder, the sooner treatment can begin. Earlier treatment gives the baby a better chance for normal growth and development, and can prevent many of the medical problems associated with these conditions.

How Is My Baby Tested?

All of the tests are performed from a few drops of blood obtained by pricking baby's heel at least 24 hours after birth or just before the baby is discharged from the hospital. The blood is collected on an absorbent paper collection form, which is then sent to the University of Iowa Laboratory.

IMPORTANT!

Babies born outside of hospitals also should be tested, preferably at about 24 hours to five days after birth. Parents can arrange the screening with their health-care provider.

Why Are Tests Needed When My Baby Seems Very Healthy?

All infants, even those who seem healthy, need to be tested because most infants with one of these disorders show no signs immediately after birth. When a disorder is found through early testing, the doctor can give the baby special care before the disorder begins to affect the child.

How Do I Receive the Results?

Parents are usually **not** notified if the screen was in a normal range. Your health-care provider will be informed when the tests are completed and you may ask them about the results. Generally, parents are notified only if retesting or further testing is needed.

If your health-care provider asks you to bring your baby in for retesting, do so as soon as possible. Retesting does not necessarily mean there is anything wrong with your baby. It may simply mean that another sample must be obtained.

How Can I Help the Doctor To Help My Baby?

Make sure the hospital knows how to contact you when you leave the hospital. If you don't have a telephone, leave the phone number of a friend, relative or neighbor. Let your doctor know immediately if you move soon after the baby is born. Then, if your baby needs retesting, the doctor can reach you.

What If I Don't Want My Baby Screened?

North Dakota law requires that all babies be tested, unless the parents object for religious reasons. Discuss refusal procedures with your health-care provider.

If you are asked to bring your baby in for re-screening, do so as soon as possible!