



For more information about newborn screening, call the following toll-free numbers:

**NURSING (866) 804-9166**

**HEARING (866) 289-2037**

Or visit [FloridaNewbornScreening.com](http://FloridaNewbornScreening.com)



your baby is  
a life changer

so is  
newborn  
screening



As a new parent, you may have lots of questions because you want to do everything you can to keep your baby safe and healthy. An important first step is to make sure your baby has all parts of the newborn screening testing completed. Early detection and treatment of health issues can help your baby grow up healthier.

Newborn screening is comprised of **3** components:



**BLOOD SPOT SCREENING** tests your baby's blood for different diseases and conditions.



**PULSE OXIMETRY SCREENING** checks to see if your baby has one of several kinds of abnormalities with their heart.



**HEARING SCREENING** checks to see if your baby has present hearing loss.



**When is newborn screening completed?**

For well-babies, all parts of newborn screening are completed after your baby is 24 hours of age and will be completed before your baby is discharged home from the hospital. If you deliver outside of a hospital setting, your birth provider will either complete the testing or make arrangements for testing 1–2 days after your baby is born. Babies in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) have different screening requirements and schedules.

**Why does my baby need newborn screening tests?**

All babies are tested because even babies who look healthy may have a health problem. If these problems are found early, treatment can begin and may be able to prevent serious complications.



**What is my role as a parent?**

- Before your baby is born, **select their doctor.**
- Schedule your **baby's first visit with their doctor** before you leave the birth facility.
- Make sure your birth facility and doctor have your **correct address and phone number(s).**
- Ask your baby's doctor about **screening results.**





## Blood Spot Screening

A few drops of blood will be taken from the heel and collected on a special filter paper. The sample will be sent to the Bureau of Public Health Laboratory in Jacksonville. Results will take a few days to be released to your baby's doctor.

### What will my baby's blood be screened for?

Florida screens for dozens of disorders off of just five drops of blood. For a full list of every disorder currently on Florida's newborn screening panel, as well as detailed information about each, please visit [FloridaNewbornScreening.com](http://FloridaNewbornScreening.com).

**METABOLIC DISORDERS:** These include disorders that affect the way the body uses different parts of food. Metabolic disorders may require specialized diets or medication to prevent build-up of substances that can become harmful to the body.

**ENDOCRINE DISORDERS:** These disorders are caused by too much or too little of certain hormones in the body. These disorders are treated with medications to prevent serious complications in mental and physical development.

**HEMOGLOBIN DISORDERS:** These disorders occur when there is a problem with the way blood cells are formed. Early detection allows for better management of care and a possible reduction of complications.

**CYSTIC FIBROSIS (CF):** This disorder causes progressive lung disease with possible involvement of other organs. Early detection allows for better management of care and a possible reduction of complications.

**SEVERE COMBINED IMMUNODEFICIENCY (SCID):** SCID is a disorder which affects the immune system, leaving little to no protection against infections. SCID may be treated with a bone marrow transplant, if appropriate.



## Pulse Oximetry Screening

A small sensor which measures oxygen levels in blood will be placed on your baby's right hand and one of their feet. This test is painless and is completed quickly.

### What is pulse oximetry screening looking for?

Pulse oximetry screening is way to screen for Critical Congenital Heart Disease (CCHD). CCHDs are problems with the structure of the heart that are present at birth. Pulse oximetry is helpful in detecting some, but not all, CCHDs before symptoms appear.



## Hearing Screening

There are two types of hearing screening equipment, both of which place sensors on your baby's head to measure response to sounds. This test is painless and is usually completed while your baby is sleeping.

### What is hearing screening for?

Hearing screening may detect possible present hearing loss. Hearing loss may affect your baby's ability to learn language skills and may cause early learning delays. If hearing loss is found early, there are many ways your baby may be helped.

### What about my baby's eyes?

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that an eye evaluation including a red-reflex test be completed as part of well-child check-ups. While not a part of newborn screening, your baby should have this eye exam completed before discharge from care after birth.



### How will I get the results of the tests?

- Your baby's doctor has access to results.
- Results of the pulse oximetry and hearing screenings will be available before you go home.
- Ask about the newborn screening results when you see your baby's doctor.
- **REMEMBER:** Screening results may not be available in your baby's chart for the first visit so until those results are received, ask about them at each visit.

### Why do some babies need to have a repeat screening or additional testing?

- There was a problem with the blood sample.
- The blood sample was collected prior to 24 hours of age.
- The screening showed a possible health issue with a result outside of the normal range.
- You will be contacted if your baby needs to have additional testing.
- If your baby needs to have the screening repeated, it should be done right away.

### REMEMBER:

Newborn screening is simply that—a screening. It is the first step towards confirming or ruling out a disorder.

# my newborn's screening

NEWBORN'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_

BIRTH FACILITY \_\_\_\_\_

PRIMARY CARE PROVIDER \_\_\_\_\_

APPOINTMENT DATE & TIME \_\_\_\_\_



## BLOOD SPOT SCREENING

DATE OF SCREENING: \_\_\_\_\_

RESULTS:  NORMAL  ABNORMAL

ANY FOLLOW-UP NEEDED?  YES  NO



## PULSE OXIMETRY SCREENING

DATE OF SCREENING: \_\_\_\_\_

RESULTS:  PASS  FAIL/REFER

ANY FOLLOW UP NEEDED?  YES  NO



## HEARING SCREENING

DATE OF SCREENING: \_\_\_\_\_

RIGHT EAR:  PASS  REFER

LEFT EAR:  PASS  REFER

ANY FOLLOW-UP NEEDED?  YES  NO

Take this card, along with any other documents from your hospital or birth facility, to your baby's first well-child appointment.

