



Tests that can protect your new baby's health

MONTANA ♥ .....  
Newborn Screening

# Why does my baby need newborn screening tests?

- ♥ Most babies are healthy when they are born.
- ♥ Montana tests all babies because a few babies look healthy, but have rare health problems.
- ♥ If we can find these problems early, we can help prevent serious outcomes like brain damage or death.

# How will my baby be tested?

- ♥ A few drops (1/8 tsp) of blood will be safely collected from your baby's heel on a special card. This will usually happen before you take your new baby home from the hospital, or performed by your midwife.
- ♥ The Public Health Laboratory receives the blood cards, has the testing done, and reports the results to your health care provider.

# How will I get the screening test results?

- ♥ Your baby's primary care provider or midwife will notify you of test results if there is a problem.
- ♥ Ask about screening results when you take your baby to your health care provider.



## Your Baby's Newborn Screen

What disorders can be detected?	How is the baby affected?	What may happen if not treated?	How often does this occur?	How is it treated?
<b>Congenital Hypothyroidism</b>	Baby doesn't produce enough thyroid hormone	Baby grows poorly and has brain damage	One in 3,000 births	Medicine to replace thyroid hormone
<b>Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia</b>	Baby produces adrenal hormones incorrectly	Baby may be very sick and may die	One in 12,000 births	Medicine to regulate hormones
<b>Galactosemia</b>	Baby cannot safely digest a sugar found in milk	Baby has brain and organ damage, may die	One in 60,000 births	Special diet without milk sugar
<b>Hemoglobinopathies (including Sickle Cell Anemia)</b>	Baby's blood cells may clump, block vessels, deprive cells of oxygen	Baby may have frequent infections, anemia, and a painful cry	One in 10,000 births One in 400 of African ancestry	Antibiotics, immunization, preventive care
<b>Cystic Fibrosis</b>	Mucus builds up in baby's lungs and elsewhere	Baby has poor growth and frequent infections	One in 2,500 births (European ancestry)	Antibiotics and enzymes
<b>Biotinidase Deficiency</b>	Baby is unable to process the essential vitamin biotin	Baby has brain and organ damage, may die	One in 60,000 births	Vitamin supplements
<b>Phenylketonuria (PKU)</b>	Baby is unable to use a building block of protein	Baby has brain damage	One in 10,000 births	Special low protein diet
<b>Maple Syrup Urine Disease</b>	Baby is unable to use the building blocks of protein	Baby has serious disabilities and may die	One in 185,000 births	Special low protein diet
<b>Homocystinuria</b>	Baby is unable to use a building block of protein	Baby may have organ damage and learning problems	One in 300,000 births	Special diet and medication
<b>Tyrosinemia</b>	Baby is unable to use a building block of protein	Baby has liver and kidney damage	One in 100,000 births	Special diet and medication
<b>Citrullinemia/ Arginosuccinic Acidemia</b>	Baby has abnormal protein by-products in body	Baby may have brain damage, seizures, may die	One in 70,000 to 100,000 births	Special diet and medication
<b>Nine Organic Acidemia Disorders</b>	Baby has abnormal protein by-products in body	Baby may be very sick and may die	One in 50,000 births overall	Special diet and medication
<b>Five Fatty Acid Oxidation Disorders</b>	Baby cannot break down fats for energy	Baby may have organ damage and may die	One in 10,000 births overall	Special diet and avoid fasting
<b>Severe Combined Immunodeficiency (SCID)</b>	Baby lacks immune cells to fight infection.	Baby will have recurrent infections, likely will die	One in 60,000 births	Bone marrow or stem cell transplant
<b>Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA)</b>	Baby lacks spinal motor neuron (SMN) protein, necessary for muscle development and movement.	Baby will suffer progressive muscle weakness and atrophy, and may die	One in 10,000 people	Injection or oral medication to stimulate SMN protein production

## The newborn screen may need to be repeated **if...**

- ♥ The sample was collected before 24 hours or was too small to complete testing.
- ♥ Your baby was born prematurely.
- ♥ The first test suggested a possible health problem.

## What if my baby needs to be **retested?**

- ♥ If your health care provider says your baby needs a retest, get it done right away.
- ♥ Make sure your baby's provider knows how to contact you.
- ♥ If the repeat test is abnormal, your baby's provider will tell you what to do next.

Each year about 10 babies born in Montana have a newborn screening disorder detected

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If you have questions about your baby's hearing or this list, talk with your baby's health professional.

## Where can I get more information?

Visit [newbornscreening.mt.gov](http://newbornscreening.mt.gov) or call 800-762-9891



DEPARTMENT OF  
**PUBLIC HEALTH &  
HUMAN SERVICES**