

Newborn Screening Repeat Testing



The Newborn Screening Program was not able to test your baby's blood sample or get a valid result. Another specimen must be collected as soon as possible. This second blood test is called a "Newborn Screening repeat test."

Why Does My Baby Need A Newborn Screening Test?

Most babies are healthy when they are born. Some babies who look healthy at birth have certain diseases that can cause serious health problems without treatment. If we find this out early, we can prevent serious health problems like mental retardation or death. Newborn screening can find many of these diseases.

Why Does My Baby Need A Repeat Test?

Before you left the hospital, a few drops of blood were taken from your baby's heel for testing. The blood sample was sent to a newborn screening lab. For some reason the lab was not able to test the blood sample or get a valid result. Your baby needs to have a second specimen collected as soon as possible.

When Can I Get The Results?

Your baby's doctor will get the results about two weeks after the blood is drawn. If your baby needs more tests, you will get a letter or phone call. *If you move after the test is done, make sure your baby's health care provider or clinic has your new address and phone number.*

Types Of Diseases That Can Be Found By This Test.

◆ Metabolic Diseases

Metabolic diseases affect the body's ability to break down food for growth, energy, and repair. Without treatment some substances build up in large amounts and may be harmful to the body. Treatment may include medication, dietary supplements, special diets, and close monitoring of the baby's health.

◆ Endocrine Diseases

Babies with these diseases make too much or too little of certain hormones. Hormones are produced by glands in the body and affect body functions. Treatment includes one or more oral medicines.

◆ Hemoglobin Diseases

Hemoglobin is found in red blood cells. It gives blood its red color and carries oxygen to all parts of the body. Hemoglobin diseases often lead to anemia because they affect the type and amount of hemoglobin in the red blood cells. Treatment may include medication, folic acid and close monitoring of the child's health.

To protect your baby's health, follow these important steps:

- ➔ Return to the doctor's office or hospital laboratory as instructed and have a second blood specimen collected from your baby as soon as possible.
- ➔ Continue to breastfeed or give infant formula that your doctor recommended while waiting for the results.

What If I Have Questions?

Call your doctor or the Newborn Screening Staff listed below if you have any questions or concerns about repeat testing.

California
Department of
Public Health

Newborn Screening Branch
Genetic Disease Screening Program
www.cdph.ca.gov/nbs

