Why Does My Baby Need Another Newborn Screening Test?

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."

California
Department of
Public Health
Newborn Screening Branch
Genetic Disease Screening Program
www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/nbs

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, serious infections 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. The lab was not able to get a valid result for all of the tests. 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.*

What Types Of Diseases Can Be Found By This Test?

Newborn screening tests for a variety of inherited diseases. This includes many different metabolic, endocrine, hemoglobin, and immune diseases, as well as cystic fibrosis. Early identification and treatment can help prevent the serious complications that these diseases can have.

Why Test for Immune Diseases?

The immune system protects the body from infections Babies with this type of inherited disease can have little or no immune system. Early treatment can help prevent life-threatening infections in babies with this disease.

While newborn screening can identify some immune diseases, it does not test for HIV or AIDS.

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 this repeat testing.

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