

# Newborn Screening for Babies Leaving the Hospital Prior to 12 Hours of Age



*Since your baby was less than 12 hours old when the newborn screening blood sample was collected, another sample must be collected. The second specimen should be collected after your baby is 12 hours old and by 4 days of age. Be sure arrangements have been made for you to bring your baby to the hospital/laboratory to collect a second sample on or before 4 days.*

## Why Did My Baby Have A Newborn Screening Test?

**California state law requires that all babies have the newborn screening test before leaving the hospital.**

Early identification and treatment of the conditions found by the test can prevent developmental disabilities and/or life-threatening illness.

A few drops of blood were taken from your baby's heel to be tested for over 78 conditions. The conditions include:

- Sickle cell disease
- Primary congenital hypothyroidism
- PKU (phenylketonuria) and many other metabolic disorders
- Cystic fibrosis
- Congenital adrenal hyperplasia (CAH)

Babies with these conditions can look healthy at birth. However, if not found and treated very soon after birth, these conditions can cause serious health problems, mental retardation, or even death. Newborn screening can identify babies with these disorders so treatment can be started right away. Effective treatment is available for all of the disorders screened for by the Newborn Screening Program. Babies who receive early and ongoing treatment can have an improved quality of life.

## Why Does My Baby Need to Have Another Test?

The test for some of the screened-for conditions is not always accurate if the blood sample is collected before a baby is 12 hours of age. Because your baby's newborn screening blood sample was collected before 12 hours of life, prior to your leaving the hospital, another sample must be collected. This second test is called a newborn screening repeat test.

## When Should the Repeat Test Be Done?

The blood sample should be collected within the first few days of your baby's life but no later than 4 days of age. Your baby's physician or the hospital staff will tell you when and where to bring the baby for the repeat test. **Please remember to bring your baby back for this important test!**

## How Much Will the Repeat Test Cost?

There is no additional charge for the newborn screening repeat test, if you have the sample collected at the location where the first sample was collected. Usually this is the hospital where your baby was born. However, you or your health insurance may be billed for a specimen collection and handling fee by the hospital.

## How Soon Can I Get the Results?

If your baby needs more tests, you will receive a phone call or a letter in a few days after the blood is collected. Otherwise, you can get the test results from your baby's doctor two to three weeks after the blood is drawn. If you change your address or phone number after the test is done, make sure your baby's health care provider or clinic has your new address and phone number(s).

California  
Department of  
Public Health

Newborn Screening Program  
Genetic Disease Screening Program  
[www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/nbs](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/nbs)

