

## NEWBORN HEARING SCREENING

A baby with an unknown hearing problem may not be able to develop language skills. It is important that your newborn baby's hearing is checked and that you know the screening results before you leave the hospital.



Newborn hearing screening:

- can be done within a few hours after birth.
- does not hurt.
- takes only a few minutes.
- allows for early treatment if hearing loss is found.

Early treatment can improve your baby's language and brain development.

### Identification and Treatment

There are many reasons why your baby may not "pass" the first hearing screening. If this happens, it is very important that you make sure to get a follow-up test to find out if your baby has a hearing loss.

When babies do not "pass" the first hearing screening, a doctor or hospital can refer them to Children 1<sup>st</sup>. Children 1<sup>st</sup> will refer babies for a follow-up hearing screening, and if necessary, for services and treatment. Participation in Children 1<sup>st</sup> is free and there are no income guidelines or health insurance criteria.

## Newborn

hearing screening allows for early treatment if hearing loss is found—to give your baby the best chance to learn language

Newborn hearing screening and blood screening are two important screening tests that should be given to your baby before leaving the hospital. Make sure you talk to your baby's doctor about these tests so that you can do all you can to be sure your baby receives the care he or she needs. Early treatment of hearing loss or disease increases your baby's chances for healthy growth.

For more information or to contact your local Children 1<sup>st</sup> Coordinator, call the Powerline number 1-800-822-2539.

### WEBSITES

**Universal Newborn Hearing Screening & Intervention:**  
<http://health.state.ga.us/programs/unhs/>

**Newborn Blood Screening:**  
<http://health.state.ga.us/programs/nsmscd/>

**Children 1<sup>st</sup>:**  
<http://health.state.ga.us/programs/childrenfirst/>

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# Georgia's

## Newborn Screening Tests

**BEFORE YOU LEAVE THE HOSPITAL,  
HAVE YOUR BABY SCREENED.**

# As a parent...

you want to do all you can to make sure your child is healthy. One thing that can help is to have your newborn baby tested for serious conditions—before you leave the hospital. The two most important screening tests for new babies are:

- 1) newborn blood screening and
- 2) newborn hearing screening

**Newborn blood screening** finds serious diseases and is a test required by Georgia law.

**Newborn hearing screening** finds the possibility of hearing loss, which affects your baby's ability to learn and speak.



## NEWBORN BLOOD SCREENING

Newborn blood screening can find the following ten diseases that can kill or cause brain damage within the first few days or weeks of a baby's life. All ten diseases are treatable with diet and/or medications, and it is important to get treatment early. Make sure to ask before you leave the hospital if your baby's blood has been taken for the test:


- Sickle Cell Disorders
- PKU (Phenylketonuria)
- Galactosemia
- Maple Syrup Urine Disease
- Hypothyroidism
- Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia (CAH)
- Tyrosinemia
- Homocystinuria
- Biotinidase Deficiency
- Medium chain acyl Co-A dehydrogenase deficiency (MCAD)

Talk to your baby's doctor about these diseases if you have questions, or are concerned about your baby's screening results.

## Newborn

blood screening can identify these diseases early so that treatment, including medications or special formulas, can be given to your baby.

## The Tests

Your newborn baby's heel will be pricked to get six drops of blood. The drops of blood are sent to the state lab for screening. 



## Identification and Treatment

Your hospital or doctor will receive a copy of the blood screening results. You should talk to your doctor about these results at your baby's first doctor visit, which usually is scheduled a week after the baby goes home.

**Georgia law requires that all babies sent home before they are 24 hours-old return to their doctor to have the test done before the child is one week of age.**

A new blood sample is needed from your baby to repeat the screen if the first sample:

- Was not properly collected, or arrived late at the state lab.
- Was taken before your baby was 24 hours old.
- Shows a possible problem.

