

# WHAT IS NEWBORN SCREENING?

Newborn Screening consists of three parts: Blood Spot, Hearing and Pulse Oximetry screening. It is recommended that all babies in North Dakota receive all three screenings at 24 hours of age.

## BLOOD SPOT SCREENING

- A** Every baby born in North Dakota is required by state law to complete the newborn blood spot screening, which is a blood test that identifies nearly 50 disorders.
- B** Babies with these disorders may look and act like a healthy newborn, but may have a medical condition that could cause serious illness, disability, or death.
- C** Treatments are available for all the disorders screened for and most babies who are identified early can grow up to be healthy. Ongoing family support is available at no cost.



Call or visit the North Dakota Newborn Screening Program website for more information.

1-800-755-2714 | 📞 701-328-2436 | 🌐 [hhs.nd.gov/nbs](http://hhs.nd.gov/nbs)  
📠 701-328-1645 | 📧 [nbs@nd.gov](mailto:nbs@nd.gov)



All babies benefit from newborn screening. To optimize your baby's health and meet the state requirement, ask your health care provider to screen your baby at 24 hours of age. For information on where to receive screening for babies born outside of the hospital, call the Newborn Screening Program or check the website for a facility near you.

# WHAT IS NEWBORN HEARING & PULSE OXIMETRY SCREENING?

## HEARING SCREENING

Identifies possible hearing loss in your baby. The screening can be done while your baby is awake or sleeping. Hearing professionals use these important 1-3-6 Benchmarks below:

- 1** Before **1 month** of age: Hearing Screening
- 3** Before **3 months** of age: Hearing Evaluation
- 6** Before **6 months** of age: Early Intervention

## PULSE OXIMETRY SCREENING

Measures the amount of oxygen in your baby's blood and can help detect a variety of serious heart problems. This may also be known as Critical Congenital Heart Disease (CCHD) screening. The goals of pulse oximetry screening include:

- ♥ Early identification of a concern with your baby's heart, before symptoms occur
- 💙 Early diagnosis of a heart condition
- 💚 Early intervention with medications or possible surgery

**Both screenings are completed before discharge and the results are available immediately.**

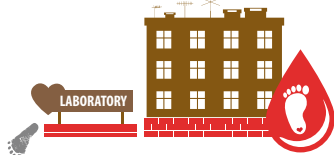
# NEWBORN SCREENING, STEP-BY-STEP



**CONGRATULATIONS,  
BABY IS BORN!**



The blood spot, hearing and pulse oximetry screenings are done to check your baby's health.



After a few drops of blood are taken from your baby's heel and placed on a blood spot card, the card is sent to a lab for processing. At the lab, special equipment tests the blood spots. Your baby's blood is tested for nearly 50 disorders.



The results of the hearing and pulse oximetry screenings are available immediately and will be shared with you before you take your baby home. Blood spot results will be sent to your baby's primary care provider.



Your health care provider will give you the blood spot results when they are available.

## **NORMAL RESULTS**

If everything looks ok, the results are sent to your baby's health care provider. Ask for your baby's results at the first newborn visit!

## **ABNORMAL RESULTS**

If there is a concern, the lab will call your baby's health care provider. Screening can only tell if your baby **MIGHT** have a health concern; we won't know for sure until your baby has more testing. Your baby's health care provider will talk to you about what needs to happen next.

## WHAT HAPPENS TO BLOOD SPOT CARDS?

- 1** To make sure the tests and equipment work the way they should, quality control may be done at the laboratory before the blood spot goes into storage. The blood spots are de-identified, meaning the baby's name, date of birth, and any other identifying information is removed.
- 2** After testing, the dried blood spot cards are returned to the North Dakota Department of Health and are stored at a secure location in North Dakota. The blood spot cards are destroyed after your child turns 18 years old.
- 3** Families may benefit from having their baby's blood spot card stored. If a child gets sick, the blood spot can help to see if something at birth may have been the cause. A blood spot may also be used to identify a missing or deceased child or if the parents request information for future pregnancies.
- 4** If you would like your baby's blood spot card returned to you and not be stored, please complete a request form that can be found on the Newborn Screening Program website or ask your health care provider for more details. Storage, destruction and further testing would be your responsibility if the card is returned to you.



By law, newborn screening is required; however, you may refuse the testing by completing a refusal form, which can be found on the Newborn Screening Program website.



No research will be done on your baby's blood spot without your written consent.