

Newborn blood spot screening

A simple, safe blood test of newborn infants can find about 40 rare conditions that can cause brain damage or death if they are not treated early.

With early treatment the child may lead a healthy life.

The Oregon Newborn Screening Program tests all babies because, while most babies look and act healthy, a few of these babies may have a rare health problem. If we find problems early, we can help prevent serious health problems, such as developmental delay, physical disability or death.

How and when will my baby be tested?

- Before you leave the hospital, a nurse will take a few drops of blood from your baby's heel and place it on a special paper.
- The hospital will send the special paper to the state public health laboratory.

How will I get the results of the screen?

- Ask about results when you see your baby's doctor or call your baby's doctor after the test has been drawn.

Why do babies need to be retested?

State law requires all babies to be retested. This usually occurs at 10 to 15 days of age.

What if my baby needs more testing?

- Your baby's doctor will contact you if your baby needs more testing. The doctor will tell you why the baby needs more testing and what to do next. Follow the doctor's instructions closely.
- If your baby needs to be retested, get it done right away.
- Make sure that your hospital and doctor have your correct address and phone number.

For more information

Oregon Newborn Screening Program
[http://public.health.oregon.gov/
LaboratoryServices/NewbornScreening](http://public.health.oregon.gov/LaboratoryServices/NewbornScreening)
503-693-4173