An introduction to BRIDGES-NBS: Newborn Genomic Sequencing Research

What is BRIDGES-NBS?

BRIDGES-NBS is a voluntary research study exploring whether whole genome sequencing — an in-depth type of genetic testing — can be added to routine newborn screening across the United States.

With parental consent, a small portion of the same blood sample already collected at birth is used to screen newborns for about 800 genetic conditions. These are conditions where early detection may allow for earlier treatment or monitoring — when it can make the biggest difference.

This is voluntary research. It does not replace routine newborn screening.

AT A GLANCE

- Could detect a genetic health risk early in life, when it can make the biggest difference.
- Screens for ~800 genetic conditions with available treatments or monitoring options
- Voluntary — requires parental consent, no effect on routine care if a family declines
- No extra blood draw, no cost to participate
- Results when the baby is about 2–3 months old

VOLUNTARY STUDY

Participation is entirely voluntary and requires a parent's consent. Saying no has no effect on a baby's routine newborn screening or care.

SAME BLOOD SPOT

No extra needle stick. We use a small portion of the blood spot already collected at birth — nothing extra is needed from the baby.

EARLY DETECTION

All condition have treatments or monitoring that can begin early in life. Finding a risk before symptoms appear gives families and providers a head start.

GETTING RESULTS

Results are shared with the baby's healthcare team and with the family. Most results are normal. If a risk is identified, families will be contacted to explain what the result means and discuss any next steps.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Is BRIDGES-NBS the same as routine newborn screening?
No. It is a separate, voluntary research study. Routine newborn screening continues unchanged.

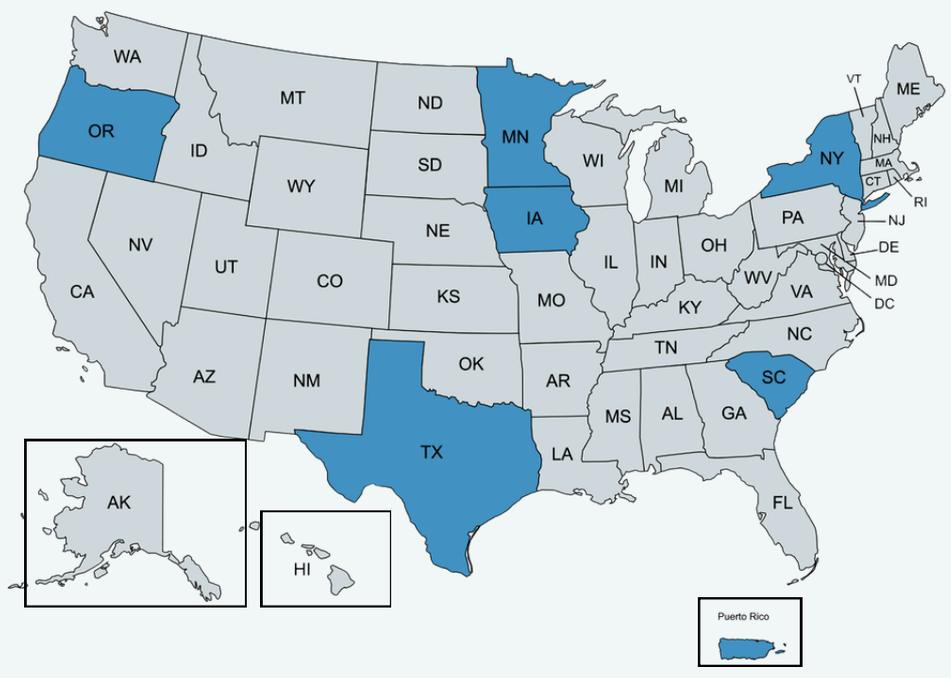
What might my baby's result look like?
Most results are normal. About 3–5 out of every 100 babies are expected to have a genetic health risk identified. A positive result means follow-up testing or monitoring may be recommended — it does not mean the baby definitely has a condition.

Is there a cost?
No cost to participate. If follow-up care is needed, those costs are billed as routine medical care through health insurance.

Who can participate?
Babies born in a participating state or territory who have received routine newborn screening, and whose parent or guardian consents to enroll — within 32 days of birth.

Participating states and territories

Iowa · Minnesota · New York · Oregon · Puerto Rico · South Carolina · Texas



www.BRIDGESnbs.org

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