



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Happy Birthday to Baby's First Test!

—Genetic Alliance's Program Educate and Empower Families & Health Care Providers During National Newborn Screening Awareness Month—

WASHINGTON, DC (September 10, 2012) [Baby's First Test](#) — the nation's educational resource center for newborn screening — celebrates its first birthday during Newborn Screening Awareness Month this September.

With nearly 4 million babies born in the United States each year, newborn screening is one of the most successful public health programs in the country. In September the nation celebrates this great achievement. It is important for families and health care providers to know for which specific conditions babies receive screening, how screening takes place, and who to contact for more information.

Baby's First Test informs and empowers families and health care providers throughout the entire newborn screening experience. By increasing awareness, Baby's First Test offers millions of newborns and their families a chance at a healthy start.

"Newborn Screening Awareness month helps to heighten the public's awareness of the newborn screening process," said [Natasha F. Bonhomme](#), project director of Baby's First Test. "Baby's First Test guides families through the steps of newborn screening, providing the right information at the right time because families deserve to know about their child's health, and every baby deserves to be healthy."

More than 1 in 300 newborns have a condition detectable through newborn screening and 98 percent of all babies born in the U.S. go through newborn screening after 24 hours of life. All it takes is a heel stick (a few drops of blood from the heel), hearing test and, in some states, pulse oximetry to screen for conditions.

Currently, all [states](#) require newborn screening for at least 26 [health conditions](#). The federal government recommends screening for 34 conditions. Most affected babies identified through newborn screening who receive treatment early grow up healthy with typical development.

"I applaud Baby's First Test on its first year of success," said Scott M. Shone, PhD, research scientist 1 and program manager for the [New Jersey Department of Health](#). "Since its launch, Baby's First Test has provided critical information and resources about newborn screening at the local, state and national level. Baby's First Test is one of the resources I offer to parents seeking information on newborn screening."

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About Baby's First Test

Baby's First Test is the nation's educational resource center for newborn screening. It informs and empowers families and healthcare providers throughout the newborn screening experience. By increasing awareness, Baby's First Test offers millions of newborns and their families a chance at a healthy start. For more information about Baby's First Test, visit <http://www.babysfirsttest.org/>.

About Genetic Alliance

Genetic Alliance improves health through the authentic engagement of communities and individuals. In this, our 25th year, we celebrate innovation on our journey toward novel partnerships, connected consumers, and smart services. For more information about Genetic Alliance, visit <http://www.geneticalliance.org>.