

## Understanding Your Baby's Newborn Screening Results

While most babies are born healthy, some infants are born with serious, but treatable medical conditions. Newborn screening is a public health program that helps healthcare providers identify these conditions before they make a baby sick. Newborn screening usually happens 24-48 hours after your baby is born and can lead to treatment within the first few days of life. There are three parts to newborn screening - the heel stick to collect a small blood sample, a pulse oximetry to monitor the amount of oxygen in your baby's blood, and a hearing screen. Every baby born in the U.S. receives newborn screening and it's important to ask your doctor about your baby's newborn screening results.

**A negative, normal, or in-range result** means that the blood test *did not* show any signs of the conditions included on the newborn screening panel and no follow-up is needed.

**A positive, abnormal, or out-of-range result** means your baby's screening *did* show signs that they may be at higher risk of having a condition included on the newborn screening panel. If your baby receives a positive result, you will be notified immediately and follow-up testing will be conducted.

While needing more follow-up does not mean that your baby has a condition, it's important to follow your baby's healthcare provider's instructions quickly and carefully.

### How can I access a copy of my baby's newborn screening results?

You will be notified of positive results within two weeks of when the test was performed, and the results will be part of your baby's medical records. Ask your baby's doctor or healthcare provider to get a copy of the results. If the healthcare provider doesn't have the results, you can get in touch with your state's newborn screening program. Find your state's contact information [here](#).

### Could the results of the screening be wrong?

The purpose of a screening test is to catch all babies that *may* have a condition. It does not confirm a diagnosis - it simply alerts doctors that further testing is required. The results of a newborn screening test can be a false positive, meaning that your baby does not have the condition that was suggested by the first screen. However, if you continue to have concerns, contact your baby's healthcare provider.

You have the right to see your baby's newborn screening results. Whether your baby's newborn screening results are positive or negative, every result should be taken seriously. If you would like to receive information about your baby's newborn screening results, contact your baby's healthcare provider.

For more newborn screening information and resources, visit [BabysFirstTest.org](http://BabysFirstTest.org).