

# NORTH CAROLINA'S NEWBORN SCREENING PROGRAM



Most babies are born without serious health conditions, but a few babies have health conditions that may be missed during pregnancy or early in life. Newborn screening is the best way to find and treat serious health conditions before a baby becomes sick.

During your hospital stay, your newborn will receive three screening tests to check for serious health problems that may not be known at birth. The earlier a problem is found the better chance your baby will have for a healthier start in life.



## BLOOD SPOT SCREENING

**Checks for multiple serious health conditions.**

A few drops of blood are taken from your baby's heel and sent to North Carolina's State Laboratory of Public Health.

### Your baby's results.

The blood spot screening results take a few days. Ask your baby's doctor for the results.

You will receive results of your baby's hearing and heart screening before your baby leaves the hospital. Ask for your baby's results before you are discharged.

If your doctor asks you to come back for more testing, it is important to do so right away. Follow up quickly.



## HEART SCREENING

**Checks for serious life-threatening heart problems known as critical congenital heart defects (CCHD).**

A small sticker will be placed on your baby's right hand and on your baby's foot to measure the amount of oxygen in your baby's blood.



## HEARING SCREENING

**Checks for hearing loss.**

A special machine looks at your baby's response to sound. The screening needs to happen when the baby is sleeping or very quiet.



Newborn Screening  
Information Center



NC Newborn Screening  
Follow-up Services



NC Newborn  
Screening Program



NC Newborn Hearing  
Screening Program



### For More Information:

Contact the Children and Youth with  
Special Health Care Needs Help Line



Call: 1-800-737-3028



Email: [CYSHCN.Helpline@dhs.nc.gov](mailto:CYSHCN.Helpline@dhs.nc.gov)



NC DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES**

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