

## Additional information:



Take this brochure home and read it carefully.



Make sure that the Laboratory Newborn Screening and Hearing Tests are done before you leave the hospital.



50% of profound infant hearing loss is genetic in origin. Contact the Department of Public Health at (860)509-8081 for more information on genetic treatment center locations.



Pick a doctor for your baby before he or she is born.



Tell your nurse in the hospital if your baby will have a different last name after you go home.



As soon as possible after you go home, call and make an appointment for your baby with your baby's doctor or other health care provider.



In case your doctor needs to reach you after you go home, make sure you give your phone number to the hospital and doctor. If you don't have a phone, leave the number of a friend or neighbor with the doctor and hospital.



### State of Connecticut Department of Public Health Laboratory Newborn Screening Program

For more information, call your baby's doctor, nurse, clinic staff, or the Laboratory Newborn Screening Program at 860-509-8081.



Keeping Connecticut Healthy

**WE CAN NOW CHECK YOUR  
BABY FROM HEAD TO TOE AND  
EVERYWHERE ELSE IN BETWEEN.**



**Connecticut Department of Public Health  
Laboratory Newborn Screening Program**

## Introducing the Expanded Newborn Screening Program

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### Why is this test done?

By law, all newborns are tested for several rare, but serious, conditions. If not treated, these conditions can cause mental retardation, slow growth, or death.

### Who should be tested?

Every baby should have this test.

### When should it be done?

The test should be done before the baby goes home or by the fourth day of life.

### How is the test done?

Your baby's heel is pricked. A few drops of blood are put on a special filter paper.

### What happens with the results?

Results are sent to the hospital where the baby was born. Your baby's doctor will call you if the results are not normal. This does not necessarily mean that your baby has a disease. The doctor will discuss the need for more testing.

More testing and treatment may be done at a State Regional Treatment Center. If your baby does have one of these conditions, it is important that treatment starts as soon as possible.

### How are these diseases treated?

Each disease is different. Treatment may include a special diet, hormones and/or medicine.

### Can I say "no" to the test?

The law says that parents may refuse the test for religious reasons.



## What screens are done?

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### Biotinidase Deficiency

With this condition, the body cannot make enough free biotin. Taking the vitamin biotin daily helps to prevent severe skin rashes, eyesight and hearing problems, and brain damage.

### Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia

With this condition, the body cannot make enough of certain hormones. Taking the missing hormones helps to prevent severe illness or death.

### Congenital Hypothyroidism

This condition is caused by a lack of thyroid hormone. Taking the missing hormone helps to prevent slow growth and mental retardation.

### Galactosemia

With this condition, the body cannot use a sugar found in milk, infant formula, breast milk, and other foods. A special diet helps prevent damage to the brain, eyes and liver.

### Hemoglobinopathies

These conditions cause problems with red blood cells and can lead to anemia, infections, pain, slow growth and even death. Special medical care and penicillin help to prevent these problems.

## Amino Acid Disorders

Babies with one of these disorders cannot break down certain amino acids. The amino acids build up in the urine or blood. Amino acids are found in foods like meat, milk, baby formulas, and breast milk. Special diets, vitamins, and special medicines help to prevent serious problems. The problems may include vomiting, diarrhea, unusual odor or color of urine, a buildup of acid in the body, slow development, or mental retardation. Phenylketonuria (PKU) is an example of an Amino Acid Disorder.

## Fatty Acid Oxidation Disorders (FAOD)

Babies with one of these disorders have trouble using fat for energy. This can lead to drowsiness, poor tone, vomiting, low blood sugar, liver failure, and muscle problems or death. Treatment may include avoiding fasting, a special low fat diet, and a medicine called carnitine. Medium-Chain ACYL-CoA Dehydrogenase Deficiency (MCADD) is an example of a Fatty Acid Oxidation Disorder.

## Organic Aciduria Disorders (OA)

Babies with one of these disorders cannot use certain amino acids and fatty acids. This can cause vomiting, poor feeding, low blood sugar, drowsiness, seizures, or death. Treatment may include a special low protein diet and/or medication. Propionic Acidemia (PPA) is an example of an Organic Aciduria Disorder.

