

# All About Newborn Screening

## Important Information for Parents About Newborn Bloodspot Screening

Every baby born in Connecticut receives a newborn screening (NBS) bloodspot test at birth. This is done by taking a few drops of blood from the newborn's heel one to two days after birth. The blood is sent to the CT Public Health Laboratory, where it is tested for over 60 treatable disorders. **Finding newborns with these conditions and beginning treatment early are made possible by newborn screening.**

Bloodspot testing is one part of the newborn screening process that is completed. Newborn screening includes bloodspot, hearing, and heart defect screening.

## Newborn Bloodspot Screening FAQ's



### Why does my baby need newborn screening?

Although most babies are healthy at birth, some are born with serious disorders that may be hidden. A newborn can look healthy and still be sick. Newborn screening can detect disorders that are causing harm, even before the newborn shows signs of being sick. This allows for treatment to start right away. Early treatment can help prevent serious illness and death.

### What does CT Newborn Screening test for?

All NBS specimens are tested for over 60 conditions. The Connecticut [newborn screening panel](#) is based on the US Department of Health and Human Services' [Recommended Uniform Screening Panel \(RUSP\)](#). Connecticut screens for select metabolic disorders including amino acid, fatty acid oxidation, organic acid disorders, biotinidase deficiency, and galactosemia, in addition to certain endocrine, immune, hemoglobin, peroxisomal, neurological, and lysosomal storage disorders.

[For the full list of conditions that can be detected through screening in Connecticut, as well as detailed information about each, please visit our website.](#)

[You can also visit our page on Baby's First Test, a newborn screening resource for families and health professionals.](#)

### How is the test done?

The hospital staff or a midwife will take a few drops of blood from your baby's heel and apply it to a filter paper card. This is sometimes referred to as a "heel stick". The card is sent to the CT Public Health Laboratory for testing.

### More Questions? Contact us!

860.920.6628 | Scan the QR code to the right to view our NBS panel

dph.nbstracking@ct.gov

<https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Laboratory/Newborn-Screening/Newborn-Screening-Program>

### For Additional Resources:

[babysfirsttest.org](http://babysfirsttest.org) / **En español:** [Spanish.BabysFirstTest.org](http://Spanish.BabysFirstTest.org)



# Connecticut Newborn Screening Program

# All About Newborn Screening

## How do I get the screening results?

- A final report of screening results will be sent to your baby's doctor, usually 7 - 14 days after birth.
- Ask your baby's doctor for bloodspot testing results at their one-month visit.

## What does an out-of-range or abnormal result mean?

It does not necessarily mean that your baby is sick or has a disorder. The goal of a screening test is to identify all babies that may have a disorder. It only tells doctors that more testing is necessary; it doesn't confirm a diagnosis. If the bloodspot test shows that a baby has an out-of-range screening result, CT NBS Program staff will call the baby's primary care provider to report the results and will either request a second bloodspot test or have a specialist work with your baby's doctor to determine the appropriate diagnostic testing.

An abnormal or out-of-range result can happen:

- if you took certain medicines while pregnant
- if your baby was born early
- if your baby's blood was collected too soon after birth
- if your baby had certain treatments (such as a transfusion) or medication while in the hospital

It is very important to follow your healthcare provider's instructions, especially if they request you to return for follow-up care.

## What if my baby is born at home?

Your midwife will collect the bloodspot specimen and send it to the State Public Health Lab. Please ask your midwife about hearing and heart defect screening.

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

All babies born in CT automatically receive bloodspot screening.

You can say "no" to the test if it conflicts with your religious beliefs. If you say no to the test, you will be asked to sign a form stating so.

## What happens to any leftover blood after screening?

When bloodspot screening is complete, a very small amount of blood is sometimes left over. The leftover blood will be stored at the CT Public Health Laboratory to allow for any necessary follow-up testing, to help make sure screening is accurate, and to develop new newborn screening tests for Connecticut. Leftover bloodspots are not used for research unrelated to newborn screening.

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