mothercare

Newborn Screening Tests

These tests could save your baby's life

What is newborn screening tests?
The newborn screening test can tell you if your baby has any hereditary (health problems that are passed on from parents to babies) or hormonal problems.

The newborn screening test is done within the first 24 to 48 hours after the baby's birth.

Why does my baby need newborn screening tests?
The testing is done to make sure that your baby will be as healthy as possible.
If we find and treat the problem early, we can avoid serious problems like poor intellectual development or death.
Parents who have no family history of these problems or who have already had healthy children can still have babies with these health problems.

How will my baby be tested?
Before you leave the birth hospital, a nurse will take a few drops of blood from your baby's heel onto filter paper card (Newborn Screening Specimen Card), or will give an appointment to do the test if you leave the birth hospital before 24 hours of your baby's birth.
The blood sample will be sent to the national newborn screening laboratory.
Make sure that you give your full and correct current address and two phone numbers.
Your baby will be also offered a hearing screening and comprehensive physical examination.

How will I get the test results for my baby?
If the result is normal you will not be called.
If there is a problem with the test result you will be called to visit the doctor.

Why do some babies need to repeat the test?
Some babies need to be retested because there is a problem with the blood sample.
A few babies need to be retested because the first test showed a possible health problem.

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www.llhhospital.com
800 55
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What happens if my baby needs to repeat the test?
You will be told if your baby needs to be retested and what to do next.
If your baby needs to be retested, get it done right away.

What happens if I leave the hospital before my baby is tested?
The nurse will give you an appointment card with specific date to do the test in the phlebotomy (sample collection area)

What are the health problems that my baby will be tested for?
Your baby will be tested for the following family inherited and hormonal problems.

Phenylketonuria
is a family inherited problem, in which a baby is born without the ability to break down protein found in the food and milk. If not treated, intellectual development may be affected.

Congenital Hypothyroidism
The baby's thyroid gland does not make enough thyroid hormone. If not treated, intellectual development may be affected and poor growth may result.

Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia
is family inherited problem, in which the baby's adrenal gland does not make enough hormones. If not treated, poor growth and poor sexual development may result.

Sickle Cell Disease
is family inherited blood problem, in which the baby's red blood cells change from their normal round shape to crescent shape, which affect the blood to reach different parts of the body. If not treated, low hemoglobin (anemia), infection, pain may result.

Thalassemia
is family inherited blood problem, in which the baby's body makes fewer red blood cells and less Hemoglobin. If not treated low hemoglobin, pain, infection, poor growth may result.

Galactosemia
is family inherited problem. in which a baby is born without the ability to break down sugar called galactose, found in milk and most infant formulas (except soy). If not treated, poor growth, yellow skin may result. In some cases brain and liver may be affected.