Newborn Screening
A Guide for Parents

What is newborn screening?
Babies born in Arizona have a few drops of blood taken from their heels to test for certain medical disorders. They also have their hearing tested.

Why are babies tested?
• The blood tests could save your baby’s life.
• Most babies are healthy when they’re born. A few babies look healthy, but have a rare health problem.
• If the problem is found early, we can help prevent serious results like mental retardation or death.
• Finding hearing loss will help your child learn speech and language.

When are babies tested?
• The hospital will do the first blood spot test and the hearing test.
• Your baby’s doctor will order the second blood spot test at your first visit.

For what disorders are babies tested?
• The 29 core disorders, including hearing loss, on the Recommended Uniform Screening Panel from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).
• The panel is also endorsed by the American Academy of Pediatrics and March of Dimes.

How will I know the results?

With blood spot results:
• Ask your baby’s doctor for the results of both the first and second tests.

• Give the hospital and the baby’s doctor your correct address and phone number.

**With hearing results:**

• The hospital will write the results on the back of the immunization record. Bring the blue shot card to your baby’s doctor.

• A second test may need to be done.

**What if my baby’s results are abnormal?**

• You’ll get a call from your baby’s doctor asking you to get more testing done immediately.

• An abnormal second blood spot or hearing test may not mean your baby has a problem. Your baby may be referred to a specialist for diagnostic testing and treatment. If needed, the Arizona program will help you get special services for your baby.

**Where can I get more information?**

• Ask your baby’s doctor.

• Call the Newborn Screening Program at 602-364-1409 (1-800-548-8381 outside the Phoenix metropolitan area).

• Visit aznewborn.com.

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**Arizona Department of Health Services**  
**Bureau of State Laboratory Services**  
**Newborn Screening Program**  
250 N. 17th Ave., First Floor  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007-3231  
602-364-1409

Outside the Phoenix metropolitan area call:  
1-800-548-8381  
Deaf and Hard of Hearing, call 711 for AZ Relay Service.