

HONORHEALTH

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.

**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.**

*Source: Arizona Department of Health Services Bureau of State Laboratory
Services
Newborn Screening Program*

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