

# NEWBORN BLOOD SPOT SCREENING

*Your baby needs a repeat screening!*

## **What is newborn screening?**

Newborn blood spot screening is done on a tiny sample of blood taken from your baby's heel 24 to 48 hours after birth to test for rare, hidden conditions that may affect your baby's health and development.

## **Why is newborn blood spot screening important?**

Babies who appear healthy and come from healthy families can still have serious medical conditions. Newborn screening helps health professionals identify and treat conditions before they can cause serious health problems, disability, or even death. Most babies identified through newborn screening are treated early and grow up healthy.

## **Why does my baby need a repeat screen?**

Some of the reasons parents are asked to bring their babies back for repeat screening are:

- Borderline results - the test was almost normal, but not quite.
- Sample collected too early - before baby was 24 hours of age.
- Treatment/Medication – baby was given treatment or medication that interfered with results.
- Quality of Sample – a problem occurred with the collection and/or handling of the blood sample.

## **What do I do now?**

Call your baby's health care provider as soon as possible to schedule a **repeat newborn blood spot screen**. If you know your baby has already had a repeat screen or additional testing, please call 800-877-6246 to update your baby's record.



## GOOD TO KNOW

More than 1 in 300 newborns have a condition detectable through newborn screening.

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In addition to blood spot screening, all babies should also be screened for hearing loss and critical congenital heart disease 24 to 48 hours after birth. Ask your health care provider about your baby's results!

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Newborn screening is one of the greatest public health achievements of the 20th century according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.



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Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services  
Bureau of Genetics and Healthy Childhood 800-877-6246

[health.mo.gov/newbornscreening](http://health.mo.gov/newbornscreening)

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