

WHAT PARENTS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT



CRITICAL CONGENITAL HEART DISEASE SCREENING

WHAT IS CRITICAL CONGENITAL HEART DISEASE (CCHD)?

Critical congenital heart disease (CCHD) is a name given to a group of heart defects that cause serious problems and require treatment early on in the baby's life. These defects or abnormalities are present at birth and can affect the heart's structure and the way it works.

WHAT ARE THE SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF CCHD?

Possible symptoms of a heart defect include difficulty breathing, blue-gray skin color, difficulty feeding, cold hands and feet, or increased sleepiness.

HOW IS CCHD SCREENING DONE?

Your baby will be examined using pulse oximetry as part of the newborn screening before going home. Pulse oximetry is a simple, painless test that measures the amount of oxygen in the blood. This test does not replace a complete physical examination by the doctor. It is important to understand that even if a baby "passes" the pulse oximetry test, he or she may still have a small chance of having a heart defect.

HOW CAN CCHD BE TREATED?

Babies with CCHD often need surgery or other procedures in the first year of life.

If you have any questions:
Talk to your baby's doctor or call the
Newborn Screening Program at:
615-532-8462

For more information, visit our website at:
www.tn.gov/newbornscreening

ALL NEWBORN BABIES ARE REQUIRED BY THE STATE OF TENNESSEE TO HAVE A TEST TO CHECK FOR CRITICAL CONGENITAL HEART DISEASE



WHAT PARENTS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT



NEWBORN HEARING SCREENING

WHY DOES MY BABY NEED A HEARING SCREENING?

It is important to make sure your baby hears your voice and other sounds around him or her. If your baby does not have access to sound, the development of speech and language will be delayed.

WHEN SHOULD YOUR BABY'S HEARING BE CHECKED?

The hearing test should be done before your baby leaves the hospital or before your baby is one month old. The hearing test is simple and can be done while your baby is asleep.

WHAT SHOULD PARENTS DO?

- Before your baby is born, choose a doctor for your baby.
- Once your baby is born, make sure the birth hospital has the name of the doctor your baby will see once he or she has been discharged from the hospital. Make sure the hospital has your correct address and phone number.
- Once the test is completed, you should receive the results before you leave the hospital.
- Some babies will need to be retested. If your baby needs to have further testing, you will be notified by the hospital and your baby's doctor. Ask your hospital or doctor where to go to obtain more hearing tests. Tests may need to be done by an audiologist or otolaryngologist (hearing professionals).
- Follow-up tests need to be completed as soon as possible but no later than 3 months.
- Hearing Screens and follow-up tests are covered by most insurance plans.

If you have any questions:
Talk to your baby's doctor or call the
Newborn Screening Program at:
615-532-8462

For more information, visit our website at:
www.tn.gov/newbornscreening

ALL NEWBORN BABIES ARE REQUIRED BY THE STATE OF TENNESSEE TO HAVE A TEST TO CHECK FOR HEARING LOSS.



WHAT PARENTS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT



NEWBORN SCREENING

WHAT IS NEWBORN SCREENING?

Soon after birth, all babies in the U.S. are checked for certain serious medical conditions. This is called newborn screening. Babies who have these serious medical conditions may appear healthy when they are born. With newborn screening, these conditions can be found early before they make a baby sick.

HOW IS NEWBORN SCREENING PERFORMED?

24 hours after your baby is born, the hospital nurse will collect a few drops of blood from your baby's heel and send it to the Tennessee State Newborn Laboratory for analysis.

WHAT SHOULD PARENTS DO?

- Before your baby is born, choose a doctor for your baby.
- Once your baby is born, make sure the birth hospital has the name of the doctor your baby will see once he or she has been discharged from the hospital.
- Make sure the hospital has your correct address and phone number. Once the tests are completed, a copy of the results will be sent to the birth hospital and your baby's doctor.
- Ask about your baby's newborn screening results when you take your baby to the doctor for the first time.
- If there is an abnormal result on the test, you and your baby's doctor will be notified.
- If your baby's newborn screening needs to be repeated, it is very important to have the screening repeated immediately.

If you have any questions:
Talk to your baby's doctor or call the
Newborn Screening Program at:
615-532-8462

For more information, visit our website at:
www.tn.gov/newbornscreening

TENNESSEE STATE LAW REQUIRES ALL NEWBORN CHILDREN TO BE SCREENED FOR RARE CHILDHOOD DISEASES AT BIRTH

