# Newborn Testing

**Testing Done For Newborns after Birth:**

Newborn Screening:In the United States every newborn is tested for a group of health disorders.  The testing is done in the first 24 hrs of birth with a simple blood test that is drawn from the heel of the infant's foot.

The newborn screen checks for rare genetic, hormone-related, and metabolic conditions that can cause serious health problems.  This is done to diagnose babies quickly and start treatment as soon as possible.

**Which Screening Tests Are Offered?**

Screening varies by state. Tests offered can change as technology advances and treatments improve. Although there are national recommendations for newborn screening, it is up to each state to decide which tests to perform. The tests usualy offered check for:  Metabolic problems, Hormone problems, Hemoglobin problems and some Rare Genetic Conditions.

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**When Are the Results Ready?**

Newborn Screen test results usually are ready by the time a baby is 5–7 days old. Often, parents won't hear about results if screening tests were normal. They are contacted if a test was positive for a condition. A positive newborn screening test does not mean a child definitely has the medical condition. Doctors order more tests to confirm or rule out the diagnosis.

**What if the test is positive for a Diagnosis?**

If a diagnosis is confirmed, doctors might refer the child to a specialist for more testing and treatment. When treatment is needed, it's important to start it as soon as possible. Treatment may include special formula, diet restrictions, supplements, medicines, and close monitoring.

**Other Testing:** Most states also screen for hearing loss and critical heart disease.Talk to your doctor if you think your baby may need other newborn screening tests not offered through your state program.



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