

Mississippi State Department of Health



# Newborn Screening

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Newborn screening is a set of tests that check infants for serious, rare disorders. Most of these disorders cannot be seen at birth but can be treated if found early. The three tests include blood spot, hearing, and pulse oximetry screening.

**Blood spot screening** checks for over 50 rare but treatable disorders. Early detection can help prevent serious health problems.

**Hearing screening** checks for hearing loss in the range where speech is heard. Identifying hearing loss early helps babies stay on track with speech, language, and communication skills.

**Pulse oximetry screening** checks for a set of serious, life-threatening heart defects known as critical congenital heart disease (CCHD). If detected early, babies with CCHD can often be treated with surgery or other medical interventions.

## When will I get my baby's results?

Your baby's hearing and pulse oximetry screen results will be available on the same day of screening. Be sure to ask your birth provider or the person performing the screen to discuss them with you.

The blood spot screening process takes a few days. The results are mailed to the birthing facility. The doctor on record will be notified of any abnormal newborn screening results by the Mississippi State Department of Health. In addition, a health department nurse may contact you if the results suggest a problem. It is very important that the hospital have the parents' correct last name, physical address, and a working telephone number. Your baby's doctor can request your baby's screening result from the hospital or call the Mississippi State Department of Health's Genetic Services Program for the screening results. The first well-child visit is a good time to talk to your baby's primary care provider about results.

## Can I refuse screening for my baby?

Yes. If you do not want your baby screened, you must complete the Parental Refusal of Newborn Screening form. You can ask your birth provider for a copy of the form.

# What conditions are currently being screened in Mississippi?

AMINO Acid Disorders

Endocrine Disorders

Fatty Acid Oxidation Disorders

## Hemoglobin Disorders

- S, Beta-thalassemia (Hb S/bTh)
- Hemoglobinopathies (Var Hb)
- S, C disease (Hb S/C)
- Sickle cell anemia (Hb SS)

## Other Disorders

- Biotinidase deficiency (BIOT)
- Cystic fibrosis (CF)
- Galactokinase deficiency (GALK)
- Classic galactosemia (GALT)
- Severe combined immunodeficiency (SCID)
- T-cell related lymphocyte deficiencies

## Point of Service Screening (No blood required)

- Hearing
- Critical Congenital Heart Disease (CCHD)

Please see our website for the complete list of the disorders at [www. HealthyMS.com](http://www.HealthyMS.com). The Mississippi Newborn Screening Program is a service coordinated by the Mississippi State Department of Health for families with newborn.

Please write to: **Mississippi State Department of Health**  
Bureau of Genetic Services  
Post Office Box 1700  
Jackson, Mississippi 39215-1700

# Newborn Screening Reminders

- Before leaving the birthing center please check with the staff to make sure that all newborn screenings are complete.
- Ask for the pink filter paper copy for your records as well as your hearing screening results. Please verify your contact information is correct.
- Babies screened and discharged prior to 24 hours of age should get a second newborn blood spot screening test when they are one-two weeks old, even if the first test is normal.
- When your newborn is one-two weeks old, they should see a medical provider for a “well-child check-up”. If your baby failed their inpatient hearing screening, a follow-up outpatient screening may be conducted at this visit.
- It is very important that your medical provider receive and review the results of your baby’s blood screening test in order to tell if there is any genetic or metabolic abnormality. Ask your primary care provider (PCP) if they received the newborn screening results when you take your baby for a check-up. If your PCP needs a copy of your baby’s results, he or she can contact the Mississippi State Department of Health.

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For more information on newborn screening:

**Mississippi Newborn Screening**

[www.healthyms.gov/newbornscreening](http://www.healthyms.gov/newbornscreening)

**Mississippi Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program**

[www.msdh.ms.gov/EHDI](http://www.msdh.ms.gov/EHDI)

**Save Babies Through Screening Foundation**

[www.savebabies.org](http://www.savebabies.org)

**Baby’s First Test**

[www.babysfirsttest.org](http://www.babysfirsttest.org)

**Mississippi Newborn Screening Program**

Phone: (601) 576-7619

