

# Arkansas Newborn Screening

Most babies are born healthy.

A few babies look healthy and have a rare health problem.

In Arkansas we test for over 25 different disorders such as sickle cell disease and cystic fibrosis. Babies also receive a hearing screen before they leave the newborn nursery.

If we find problems early, they can be treated early to lower the chance of serious problems like developmental delay, organ damage or death.

Your baby's doctor or a Newborn Screening Program nurse will call you if your baby needs retesting. They will tell you why the baby needs retesting and what to do next. Returning quickly for the second test is very important.



## Arkansas Department of Health Newborn Screening Program

Toll Free: 1.866.769-9043

Local: 501.280-4780

[www.healthy.arkansas.gov](http://www.healthy.arkansas.gov)  
Child and Adolescent Health  
Newborn Screening Program



**Arkansas Department of Health**  
*Keeping Your Hometown Healthy*

4815 West Markham  
Little Rock, AR 72205  
[www.healthy.arkansas.gov](http://www.healthy.arkansas.gov)



# Arkansas Newborn Screening

Protecting Babies  
Through a Simple Test



**Arkansas Department of Health**  
*Keeping Your Hometown Healthy*

## Why does my baby need newborn screening tests?

- Most babies are healthy when they are born.
- We test all babies because a few babies look healthy but have a rare health problem.
- If we find these problems early, we can help prevent serious problems like organ damage, mental retardation or death.

## How will my baby be tested?

- A few drops of blood are taken while your baby is still in the hospital nursery.
- The hospital sends the blood sample to the Arkansas Public Health Laboratory for testing.
- If not born in the hospital, your baby will need to be tested by the 7th day of life at the doctor's office or local health unit.



## What if my baby needs to be retested?

- Your baby's doctor will contact you if there is a problem.
- Sometimes the test may have been done too soon after birth (the test is most accurate when done after 24 hours of age).
- Some babies need repeat testing if they were born prematurely or needed special care after birth such as a blood transfusion.
- A few babies need to be retested because the first test showed a possible health problem.
- Your baby's doctor will tell you why the baby needs to be retested and what to do next.
- **If your baby needs to be retested, it is very important to get it done right away.**
- **Make sure that your hospital and doctor have your correct address and phone numbers.**

## How will I get the results of the test?

- Your baby's doctor can give you the test results.
- Ask about results when you take your baby for a check-up.

## What if I have questions?

- Ask your baby's doctor if you have questions or concerns about your baby's health or the newborn screening result.



*For more information contact the Arkansas Newborn Screening Program*

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