

SOUTH DAKOTA NEWBORN SCREENING PROGRAM

Blood Spot & Hearing Screening

BLOOD SPOT SCREENING PROGRAM

A few drops of blood from your baby's heel is all that is needed to test your baby for rare, but potentially life-threatening disorders. Your doctor or midwife can perform this test. It can be done in your home if you have a home birth. The baby is easily soothed by swaddling and being held during the heel prick.

These disorders can occur in all people. Finding these disorders early and treating them before they show signs of sickness can prevent serious health problems. Health problems can include brain damage, other organ damage, or even death.

Disorders Detected through Screening:

- Phenylketonuria (PKU)
- Maple syrup urine disease (MSUD)
- Cystic fibrosis (CF)
- Severe combined immunodeficiency (SCID)
- Thyroid disease
- Galactosemia

HEARING SCREENING PROGRAM

The newborn hearing screening detects potential hearing loss. Some babies with hearing loss startle to loud sounds but they cannot hear someone talking. It is important to know this before three months of age because finding out your baby has hearing loss early can help you and your baby learn ways to communicate and get connected to resources to help your baby's hearing and development.

During this screening, a small handheld device plays soft sounds and measures how well your baby responds. The screening only takes a few minutes and causes no pain or discomfort.

If the person delivering your baby does not have hearing screening equipment, please ask them where you can obtain a hearing screen. Birthing hospitals and other midwives have hearing screening equipment.

Questions for the South Dakota Newborn Screening Program:
dohnewbornscreening@state.sd.us



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Questions Regarding Screening

When will I get my baby's results?

The hearing results are available immediately. The blood spot screening tests take a few days, but your midwife or doctor will contact you as soon as possible if the results suggest a problem. Be sure to ask your doctor, midwife, or the person performing the screening for the results.

What if my baby has a positive blood spot screening?

Every condition screened is treatable. Your baby's doctor or midwife will advise you on the next steps to take after a diagnosis. If your baby has one of the conditions found through newborn screening, you will be helped by our team. Your midwife or doctor will work with you to make sure your baby receives the care and services that are needed. You are not alone.

What personal information is on the screening card?

The South Dakota screening cards are sent to the Iowa State lab for testing. Your screening card will have some information about you and your baby. Examples include: baby's name, date of birth, time of birth, mother's name, and who to contact if the baby has a positive screen.

Can I refuse screening for my baby?

South Dakota law requires hospitals, doctors, and midwives to tell you about newborn screening. Because screening is so important, all babies should have these screens. If you don't want your baby screened, you must sign the refusal form. Ask your midwife or doctor for the form. Newborn screening can save your baby's life. The possible health risks of not screening are serious.

What is the cost of the newborn blood spot screening?

The cost is \$97. This cost is billed through your birthing hospital or midwife and paid directly to the Iowa State Hygienic Lab for the cost of the testing.



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