

Where can I find more information?

Talk to a health information specialist. Call the Health Information Line at **401-222-5960 / RI Relay 711**.

Specialists are available Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. They can direct you to people who can:

- Answer questions about newborn screening tests
- Give you information about resources for you and your baby



*KIDSNET is Rhode Island's information system that helps make sure that children receive preventive healthcare. All babies born in Rhode Island have health information included in KIDSNET. As your baby grows, information may be added about immunizations, height and weight measurements, medical conditions, and results of developmental, hearing, lead, and newborn blood screenings. KIDSNET also includes information from your baby's birth certificate and from Family Visiting, Early Intervention, Head Start, Early Head Start, Cedar, Asthma, Child Outreach, and WIC Programs. KIDSNET information is confidential and is protected under state and federal privacy laws. Only the Rhode Island Department of Health, doctors, nurses, and other authorized professionals can see KIDSNET information. You have the right to request a copy of your child's information from their doctor and to ask for corrections. You also have the right to restrict who can see your child's information.

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Newborn Screening Tests

Newborn screening tests are an important first step in protecting your baby's health. In this guide, you'll learn about:

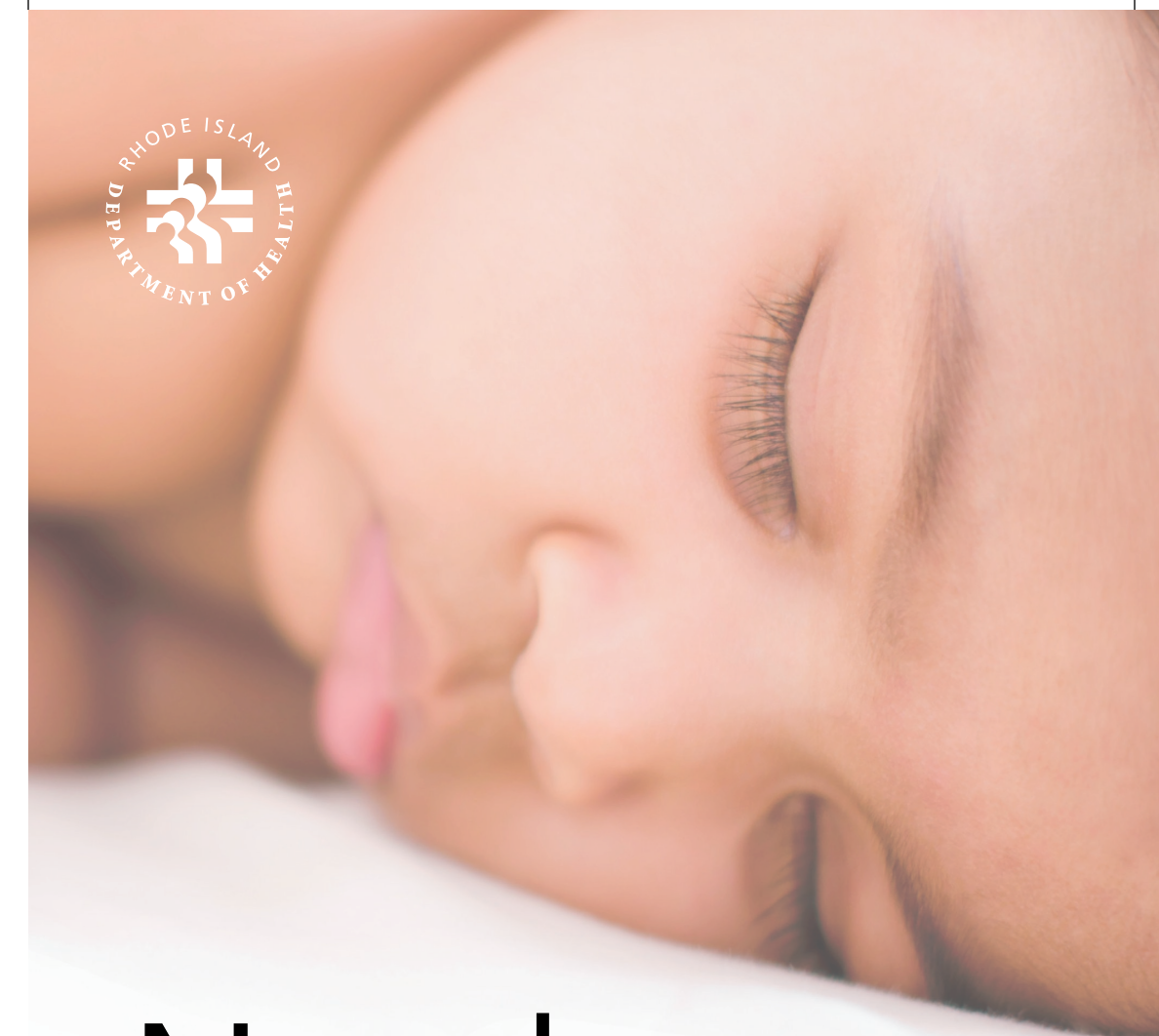
- Screening tests done 24 to 48 hours after your baby's birth
- Why healthcare providers do these tests
- Resources to help you and your baby stay healthy



Department of Health
 Three Capitol Hill
 Providence, RI 02908-5097
 TTY: 711
www.health.ri.gov



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Newborn Screening

What You Should Know About Tests For Your New Baby

What is newborn screening?

All babies in the US have some simple screening tests in their first days of life (24 to 48 hours after birth). These screening tests are free, quick, and safe for your baby. Your baby has these tests at the birthing hospital before you leave, or your midwife screens your baby in your birthing location.

Why does my baby need newborn screening tests?

Healthcare professionals do these tests to see if your baby may have certain health conditions. It's important to identify these conditions early so your baby can receive care.

Your baby has these tests even if you or your partner had genetic testing before or during pregnancy. Newborn screening tests help identify conditions that other prenatal genetic tests may not find.

What tests does my baby have?

Your baby will have three tests to screen for health conditions that affect some babies. These tests are:



Blood test: A healthcare professional takes a few drops of blood from your baby's heel (sometimes called a heel stick). They put the blood on a special paper card. Then they send the card to the laboratory for tests.



Hearing screening: A healthcare professional puts a soft tip in your baby's ear which plays a soft sound and records how your baby's ear responds to the sound. The tip doesn't hurt your baby.



Pulse oximetry test: Healthcare professionals place sensors (a detector) on your baby's hand and foot. Your baby won't feel the sensors. They measure how much oxygen is in your baby's blood.

Do these tests hurt my baby?

Newborn screening tests are safe and quick. Some babies may feel a tiny pinch during the heel stick. They won't feel any discomfort or pain during the hearing screening and pulse oximetry test.

How will I know my baby's newborn screening results?

Healthcare professionals at the hospital or birthing center tell you some test results before you leave. You'll know the results of your baby's hearing test and pulse oximetry test right away.

Blood test results take a little longer. Your baby's healthcare professional gets these results. They will tell you if there are any concerns, usually within your baby's first two weeks of life.

Ask your baby's healthcare professional about the results of their newborn screening tests.

What happens if the test results aren't what they should be?

A screening result that's outside the normal range for newborns does not mean your baby has a health condition. But your baby may need more testing to be sure. Talk to your healthcare professional about the tests they recommend for your baby and do them as soon as possible to help protect your baby's health.



What health conditions do newborn screening tests look for?

Blood screening

Helps identify health conditions that may affect your baby's:

- **Blood** (hemoglobin conditions)
- **Hormones** (endocrine conditions)
- **Metabolism** (amino acid and fatty acid oxidation conditions)
- **Muscles** (neuromuscular conditions)

Scan the QR code to learn more about conditions this test screens for.



Hearing screening

Helps identify hearing loss in newborn babies.

Pulse oximetry screening

Helps identify critical congenital heart disease in newborn babies.

What happens to my baby's test results?

Your baby's test results go to your healthcare professional and to KIDSNET*. Talk to your healthcare professional if you have questions about your child's results.

Scan the QR code to learn more about how newborn test results are used and stored.



Family Visiting Program

The Family Visiting Program is always here for you and your baby. Family visitors come to your home or anywhere you would like. Support from a Family Visitor may include:

- **Answering** your questions about pregnancy and parenting
- **Connecting** you with other families
- **Providing** helpful resources for health insurance, childcare, lead poisoning prevention, dental and medical care, and Women, Infants and Children (WIC) services
- **Sharing** activities to do with your child

Family Visiting is voluntary and free to interested families. Call **401-222-5960** or visit www.FamilyVisitingRI.org for more information.

Safe Sleep for Newborns

Learn how to keep your newborn baby safe while they sleep. Visit www.health.ri.gov/for/newparents/about/safesleep.

Birth Defects Program

The Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) maintains a confidential Birth Defects Information System that includes information about all newborn babies with identified birth defects. This information helps make sure babies receive appropriate services and helps the Birth Defects Program study birth defects patterns. Information in the Birth Defects Information System is protected by state and federal privacy laws. You have the right to opt out of this system and to restrict the release of your baby's information. You can also choose not to be contacted by the Birth Defects Program. If you do not want your child's information in the Birth Defects Information System, you may contact your child's doctor or call the Health Information Line at **401-222-5960 / RI Relay 711**, weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Scan the QR code to learn about the Birth Defects Program.

