

Wisconsin Newborn Screening: Three Parts for a Healthy Start Blood Screening

What is newborn blood screening?

Newborn blood screening is a special blood test for newborns. Several drops of blood are collected from your baby's heel 24-48 hours after birth and placed onto a special filter paper card. This card is sent to the Wisconsin Newborn Screening Lab for testing. Your baby's blood sample is kept safely for one year and then destroyed. The lab tests for a group of conditions that may not be obvious at birth like cystic fibrosis and sickle cell disease. A positive screening result means there may be a risk for a condition. Further testing is critical to find out if your baby has the condition and needs treatment.



Why is newborn blood screening important?

Newborn blood screening is available to all Wisconsin babies. Most babies are born healthy, but newborn blood screening is the best way to find babies with potentially serious conditions and get them the care they need. These conditions may mean your baby needs immediate care or treatment. Newborn blood screening can save babies' lives and help them begin life healthy.

What are newborn screening conditions?

These conditions are health problems that may not be noticed just by looking at your baby. Screening at birth is the best way to identify babies with potentially serious conditions and get them the help they need.

What if my baby screens positive?

If your baby screens positive, the newborn screening lab will contact your baby's doctor. Your baby's doctor will be there to help you with next steps.

What if my baby needs to be rescreened?

If your baby's doctor asks you to bring your baby back to repeat the newborn screening test or for further testing, do so as soon as possible. It is important that testing be done right away.

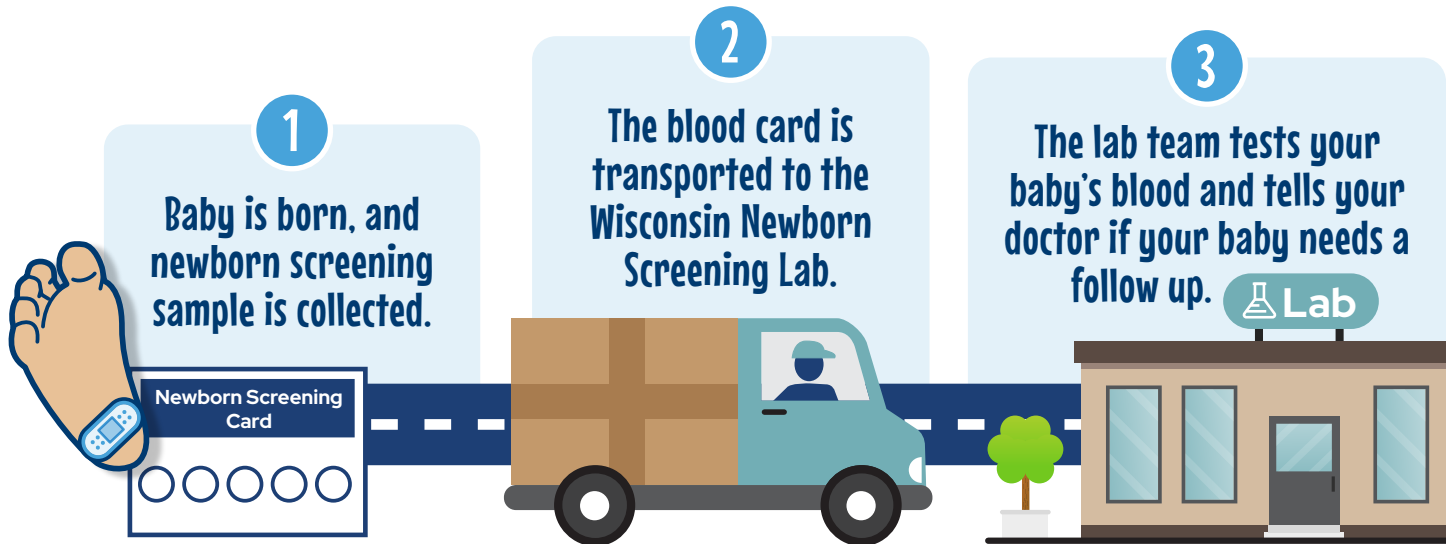
How will I know the results of my baby's blood screening?

The newborn screening lab will send your baby's doctor a report with the results. You should ask about these results at your baby's first visit. If your baby screens positive, your baby's doctor will get the result sooner by a call from the laboratory, and they will contact you.

Each condition has a different treatment. Some are managed with a special diet and others with medication.

Blood screening is one of three parts of newborn screening.

Learn more about heart and hearing screening for a healthy start!



For more information about Wisconsin's Newborn Screening Program scan the QR codes or visit the links below!

Newborn Blood Screening



dhs.wisconsin.gov/newbornscreening/blood.htm

Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene



slh.wisc.edu/clinical/newborn

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