

Facts about Critical Congenital Heart Disease (CCHD)

- Critical Congenital Heart Disease (CCHD) happens when the heart does not develop normally before birth.
- CCHD is one of the main causes of newborn and infant death.
- CCHD is found in some babies by prenatal ultrasound, but for many babies it is found after they are born.
- CCHD affects 2-3 of every 1,000 births.
- Not all heart disease are life threatening.

Where can I get more information about the Wisconsin Newborn Screening Program?

For additional information about newborn screening, contact:

Wisconsin Newborn Screening Program

Division of Public Health

P.O. Box 2659

Madison, WI 53701-2659

608-266-8904

Visit the following websites for additional information on newborn blood screening or for other newborn screening programs, such as hearing screening.

www.wisconsinshine.org

www.slh.wisc.edu/clinical/newborn

www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/newbornscreening/index.htm

www.geneticsinwisconsin.wisc.edu

Well Badger Resource Center

New Home of the MCH/First Step

Resource Line: 1-800-642-7837

<https://wellbadger.org/>

Newborn Screening for Critical Congenital Heart Disease



www.wisconsinshine.org



State of Wisconsin
Department of Health Services
Division of Public Health
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Critical Congenital Heart Disease

Congratulations on the birth of your new baby!

In the first few days of life we want to do everything we can to make sure your baby is healthy.

One of the newborn screening tests we provide measures oxygen levels in your baby's blood.

Low levels of oxygen can mean your baby has a problem with their heart called Critical Congenital Heart Disease (CCHD). The purpose of the test is to identify and treat babies with this very rare but serious condition who may otherwise seem perfectly healthy.

Screening for Critical Congenital Heart Disease

- Pulse oximetry screening can find babies with a severe heart defect known as CCHD. CCHD can cause babies to get very sick and even die.
- Pulse oximetry uses a sensor with a light to look for low levels of oxygen in the blood.
- The sensor will be placed on your baby's right hand and one foot.
- The test is fast and painless.
- Pulse oximetry screening will usually be done between 24 and 48 hours after your baby is born.

What if a baby fails the pulse oximetry screening test?

- A baby fails the pulse oximetry screening if their oxygen level falls below 90% during the screening or if the levels are between 90% and 94% on three tries.
- Babies will also fail the screening if there is more than a 3% difference between the right hand and the foot on three tries.
- If your baby fails the pulse oximetry screening, more testing may be needed to look at your baby's heart.
- Some babies who fail pulse oximetry screening are found to have healthy hearts.

Will screening find all types of congenital heart disease?

Some types of heart problems will not be found using pulse oximetry screening because some heart problems do not cause low oxygen levels.

What if my baby has CCHD?

If your baby is found to have CCHD, the people taking care of your newborn will work with a children's heart doctor to plan the care of your baby. Some families may need to go to another hospital to have their baby tested.