

Help us save the 33,000 babies affected by any of these disorders.

Ask for Newborn Screening from your health worker.

What are the disorders included in the Philippine newborn screening program?

Currently, there are five disorders being screened. These are:

1. Congenital Hypothyroidism (CH)

CH results from lack or absence of thyroid hormone which is essential for the physical and mental development of a child. If the disorder is not detected and hormone replacement is not initiated within two (2) weeks, the baby with CH may suffer from growth and mental retardation.

2. Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia (CAH)

CAH is an endocrine disorder that causes severe salt loss, dehydration and abnormally high levels of male sex hormones in both boys and girls. If not detected and treated early, babies with CAH may die within 7-14 days.

3. Galactosemia (GAL)

GAL is a condition in which babies are unable to process galactose, the sugar present in milk. Accumulation of excessive galactose in the body can cause many problems, including liver damage, brain damage and cataracts.

4. Phenylketonuria (PKU)

PKU is a rare condition in which the baby cannot properly use one of the building blocks of protein called phenylalanine. Excessive accumulation of phenylalanine in the blood causes brain damage.

5. Glucose-6-Phosphate Dehydrogenase Deficiency (G6PD def)

G6PD deficiency is a condition where the body lacks the enzyme called G6PD. Babies with this deficiency may have hemolytic anemia resulting from exposure to oxidative substances found in drugs, foods and chemicals.

REMINDERS TO PARENTS

G6PD def is the most common condition among the NBS Panel of Disorders.

Naphthalene or moth ball, and some drugs including herbal medicine should be avoided by people with G6PD def.

While waiting for the NBS result, parents are advised not to expose their baby to naphthalene or moth balls. More so, all medications that will be given to the baby must be prescribed by a doctor.

If the NBS result is G6PD def. Consult the baby's doctor and proceed with the confirmatory test. Refer the result to your physician.

For further inquiries, please contact:

your health workers at the hospitals
or lying-in clinic/birthing home
or health centers

OR

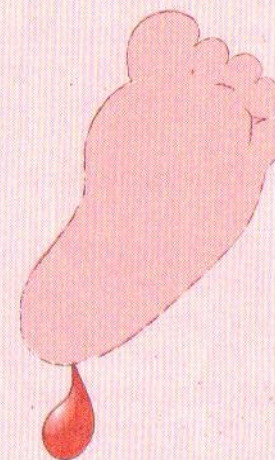
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SAVE YOUR BABY from Mental Retardation



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Basic Information About Newborn Screening

What is newborn screening?

Newborn Screening (NBS) is a simple procedure to find out if your baby has a congenital metabolic disorder that may lead to mental retardation or even death if left untreated.

Why is newborn screening important?

Most babies with metabolic disorders look "normal" at birth. By doing NBS, metabolic disorders may be detected even before clinical signs and symptoms are present. And as a result of this, treatment can be given early to prevent consequences of untreated conditions.

When is newborn screening done?

NBS is ideally done on the 48th - 72nd hour of life. However, it may also be done 24 hours from birth.

How is newborn screening done?

A few drops of blood are taken from the baby's heel, blotted on a special absorbent filter card and then sent to Newborn Screening Center (NSC).

Who will collect the sample for newborn screening?

The blood sample for NBS may be collected by the ff: physician, nurse, medical technologist or trained midwife.

Where is newborn screening available?

NBS is available in Hospitals, Lying-ins, Rural Health Unit and Health Centers.

*Newborn Screening is included in the Philhealth Newborn Care Package

How can results be claimed?

Results can be claimed from the health facility where NBS was done. Normal NBS Results are available 7 - 14 working days from the time samples are received at the NSC.

Positive NBS results are relayed to the parents immediately by the health facility. Please ensure that the address and phone number you will provide to the health facility are correct.

What is the meaning of the newborn screening result?

A **negative screen** means that the Newborn Screening result is normal.

A **positive screen** means that the newborn must be brought back to his/her health practitioner for further testing.

Why do some babies need to be retested?

Here are some possible reasons for retesting:

- If the sample was taken less than 24 hours from birth.
- If there is a problem with the blood sample.
- If the first test showed a possible health problem.

Your attending health practitioner will contact you if your baby needs to be retested.

If your baby needs to be retested, get it done right away.

What should be done when a baby has a positive Newborn Screening result?

Babies with positive results should be referred at once to a specialist for confirmatory testing and further management.

Why screen your baby?

Disorder Screened	Effect if NOT SCREENED	Effect if SCREENED and Treated Early
CH (Congenital Hypothyroidism)	Severe Mental Retardation	Normal
CAH (Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia)	Death	Alive and normal
GAL (Galactosemia)	Death or Cataracts	Alive and normal
PKU (Phenylketonuria)	Severe Mental Retardation	Normal
G6PD Deficiency	Severe Anemia, Kernicterus	Normal