

What Will Happen To My Baby In The Hospital?

Newborn Blood Spot Screening

Contact your baby's doctor for test results.

Additional information about the screening program and the conditions are available through your doctor or at the Oregon State Public Health Laboratory's website: <http://www.oregon.gov/dhs/ph/nb> or www.healthoregon.org/nbs and at the National Newborn Screening and Genetics Resource Center website: genes-r-us.uthscsa.edu

Newborn Screening Could Save Your Baby's Life

A simple, safe blood test can find about 30 rare conditions that can cause brain damage or death if they are not treated early.

Your baby needs two blood tests. Not all conditions can be found by one test alone.

A few drops of blood are taken from the baby's heel and put on a special filter paper.

The first test is done in the hospital before going home. The second is done at the baby's first check up, about 2 weeks of age.

With early treatment the child can lead a normal life.

Every baby should be offered the following preventive measures:

- SCREENING TESTS – BLOOD SPOT AND HEARING – All hospitals should collect the first newborn screening blood spot specimen and most hospitals will screen your baby's hearing before you leave the hospital. See the next two pages for more information.
- ANTIBIOTIC EYE CREAM – Babies can get eye infections from bacteria in the birth canal. The eye cream will help prevent infections.
- VITAMIN K – Newborns do not have enough Vitamin K, a vitamin needed to help blood to clot. Your baby will be given a shot of Vitamin K to prevent bleeding.
- HEPATITIS B SHOT – While most vaccines are given starting around 2 months of age (See Baby Shots page 67), the first hepatitis B shot is recommended for all babies after delivery, before they leave the hospital.

Make sure YOUR baby gets the best start in life!