Having a baby is exciting, and you may have questions. Don’t be afraid to ask your doctor for more information about anything you don’t fully understand.

Florida Newborn Screening does not store specimens beyond the time necessary to conduct quality assurance activities. Residual dried bloodspot specimens are destroyed six months after testing is complete. Some abnormal samples are kept unidentified for quality assurance and method validation purposes. Florida Newborn Screening does not use residual dried bloodspot specimens for biomedical research. See Florida Statutes 383.14 and 383.145 at www.leg.state.fl.us for laws governing Florida Newborn Screening.

Why does my baby need Newborn Screening tests?

- All babies are tested because even babies who look healthy may have a rare health problem.
- If problems are found early, treatment can begin and may be able to prevent serious problems like mental retardation or death.
- It is important to remember that the newborn screening test is a screening test and not a diagnostic test. There will be false positive test results and false negative test results.
- Some disorders will detect an infants’ carrier status in the process to detect a true positive.

How will my baby be tested for the Newborn Blood Screening?

- Before you leave the hospital, several drops of blood will be taken from your baby’s heel.
- The hospital will send the blood sample to the Florida Newborn Screening Lab in Jacksonville.

How will I get the results of the test?

- Your baby’s doctor will be given the results by the hospital.
- The hospital will send the blood sample to the Florida Newborn Screening lab in Jacksonville.

What babies need to have additional testing?

- All babies with abnormal screening results need more testing.
- Your baby needs to have additional testing if:
- your baby’s doctor feels the results need to be reviewed.
- A few days have passed since the test was performed.
- The test was performed on an infant that weighs less than 5 pounds at birth.
- Your baby needs more testing, get it done right away.

Make sure your hospital and doctor have your correct address and phone number.
Newborn Hearing Screening

Hearing loss is a defect in the way a newborn hears. Treatment may involve the use of hearing aids and early intervention services.

AUDITORY BRAINSTEM RESPONSE (ABR): Small headphones are placed over your baby’s ears. The headphones send soft clicking sounds into your baby’s ears. Filtered waves are picked up on different parts of the head. Your baby’s responses are recorded.

OCTAGONAL SOMATIC (OAs): A tiny earplug is inserted into your baby’s ear. The earplug sends soft sounds into the ear and a computer reads the “echoes” that come back from your baby’s ear.

What about my newborn’s eyes?

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that a physician perform an eye evaluation that includes the red reflex test at all well-infant and well-child visits.

Each year in the U.S., as many as 2 to 3 babies out of each 1,000 born, are deaf or hard of hearing.

What to do if your baby’s hearing test fails?

• We test all babies to find the ones who have trouble hearing. We test all babies to find the ones who have trouble hearing.

• Why not all babies with CHORD test show signs of hearing loss?

• Some babies will need another test because not all can hear the early hearing test.

• Why do some babies need another test?

• If we find hearing loss early, there are many ways we can help your baby.

• Most babies who need another test have normal hearing. Some will have hearing loss.

• If your baby does not pass the hearing test, make sure he or she is treated again as soon as possible.

• Some babies who need another test have normal hearing. Some will have hearing loss.

• Why should my baby’s hearing be tested?

• We test all babies to find the ones who have trouble hearing.

• What should I know about the newborn hearing test?

• Why should my baby’s hearing be tested?

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