



### For more information:

- ☑ Talk to your health care provider.
- ☑ Call the Montana Newborn Screening Coordinator at 406-444-0984 or 800-762-9891.
- ☑ Visit Montana Newborn Screening online at [www.newborn.hhs.mt.gov](http://www.newborn.hhs.mt.gov)



Children's Special Health Services  
PO Box 202951, Helena MT 59620

30,000 copies of this public document were published at an estimated cost of \$.074 per copy, for a total cost of \$2,219.00, which includes \$2,219.00 for printing and \$.00 for distribution.

# MONTANA'S NEWBORN SCREENING



## Tests that can protect your new baby's health

Montana Department of Public  
Health and Human Services  
May 2009

### Why does my baby need newborn screening tests?

- ☑ Most babies are healthy when they are born.
- ☑ Montana tests all babies because a few babies look healthy but have rare health problems.
- ☑ If we find these problems early, we can help prevent serious outcomes like mental retardation or death.

### How will my baby be tested?

- ☑ A few drops (1/8 tsp) of blood will be safely collected from your baby's heel on a special card. This will usually happen before you take your new baby home from the hospital.
- ☑ The Public Health Laboratory receives the blood cards, has the testing done, and reports the results to your health care provider.



### How will I get the screening test results?

- ☑ Your baby's doctor, nurse, or midwife will notify you of test results if there is a problem.
- ☑ Ask about screening results when you take your baby to your health care provider.



### The newborn screen may need to be repeated IF...

- ☑ the sample was collected before 24 hours or was too small to complete testing.
- ☑ your baby was born prematurely.
- ☑ the first test suggested a possible health problem.

# Your Baby's Newborn Screen

What disorders can be detected?	How is the Baby affected?	What may happen if not treated?	How often does this occur?	How is it treated?
<b>Congenital Hypothyroidism</b>	Baby doesn't produce enough thyroid hormone	Baby grows poorly and has brain damage	One in 3,000 births	Medicine to replace thyroid hormone
<b>Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia</b>	Baby produces adrenal hormones incorrectly	Baby may be very sick and may die	One in 12,000 births	Medicine to regulate hormones
<b>Galactosemia</b>	Baby cannot safely digest a sugar found in milk	Baby has brain and organ damage, may die	One in 60,000 births	Special diet without milk sugar
<b>Hemoglobinopathies (including Sickle Cell Anemia)</b>	Baby's blood cells may clump, block vessels, deprive cells of oxygen	Baby may have frequent infections, anemia, and a painful crisis	One in 10,000 births One in 400 of African ancestry	Antibiotics, immunization, preventive care
<b>Cystic Fibrosis</b>	Mucus builds up in baby's lungs and elsewhere	Baby has poor growth and frequent infections	One in 2,500 births (European ancestry)	Antibiotics and enzymes
<b>Biotinidase Deficiency</b>	Baby is unable to process the essential vitamin biotin	Baby has brain and organ damage, may die	One in 60,000 births	Vitamin supplements
<b>Phenylketonuria (PKU)</b>	Baby is unable to use a building block of protein	Baby is severely mentally retarded	One in 10,000 births	Special low protein diet
<b>Maple Syrup Urine Disease</b>	Baby is unable to use the building blocks of protein	Baby has serious disabilities and may die	One in 185,000 births	Special low protein diet
<b>Homocystinuria</b>	Baby is unable to use a building block of protein	Baby has delayed development	One in 300,000 births	Special diet and medication
<b>Tyrosinemia</b>	Baby is unable to use a building block of protein	Baby has liver and kidney damage	One in 100,000 births	Special diet and medication
<b>Citrullinemia/ Arginosuccinic Acidemia</b>	Baby has abnormal protein by-products in body	Baby has brain damage, seizures, may die	One in 70,000 to 100,000 births	Special diet and medication
<b>Nine Organic Acidemia Disorders</b>	Baby has abnormal protein by-products in body	Baby may be very sick and may die	One in 50,000 births overall	Special diet and medication
<b>Five Fatty Acid Oxidation Disorders</b>	Baby cannot break down fats for energy	Baby may have organ damage and may die	One in 10,000 births overall	Special diet and avoid fasting



## What if my baby needs to be retested?

- If your health care provider says your baby needs a retest, get it done right away.
- Make sure your baby's provider knows how to contact you.
- If a repeat test is abnormal, your baby's provider will tell you what to do next.

**Montana births in 2008: 12,500**  
**Babies treated for a screened condition: 17 (1 in 735)**