

Basic Information About the Newborn Screening Test

You might be wondering what this test is and why your baby might benefit from having it done. The truth is that the vast majority of babies are born healthy. But there are occasions where a baby who looks healthy may have a disease or condition that, over time, can cause significant health issues. Detecting these problems and treating these babies early is an important part of prevention of things like organ damage, mental capacity restriction or even death in the case of certain disorders.

The Newborn Screening is usually done between 24-72 hours after birth. It consists of a few drops of blood taken from your baby's heel. It can be done at your 2-3 day postpartum visit or in a doctor's office. Although the initial collection can cause discomfort for your baby the test is done quickly and the discomfort is short lived.

As stated above, most babies are healthy and no issues present. Parents and healthcare providers are sent information on any test results that come back abnormal and a repeat screening may be suggested.

As with anything pertaining to healthcare, parents have the right to refuse this test at the time of their baby's birth and a refusal can be documented in the patient's chart.

The State of Missouri provides a brochure containing information about their Newborn Screening program and what to expect. A link to view this brochure can be found here:

<https://www.babysfirsttest.org/sites/default/files/Newborn%20Screening%20Booklet%20Missouri.pdf>

Parent's Statement:

"I have read about and researched this topic and I have had my questions answered. My signature in my chart accepting/refusing the treatment/test discussed above is indication of my understanding and acceptance of the potential risks and benefits of my decision on this topic."