



Newborn Screening: The Midwife's Role



Why Screen All Newborns?

Newborn Screening is a critical preventative measure. It allows for the early identification and treatment of health issues in order to prevent serious illness, disability, or death. Early identification and treatment promotes healthy child development and overall quality of life for newborns and their families.

For more information about the newborn screening program in our state, please contact person@newbornscreening.com or call 1-800-NBS-STATE.

State Newborn Screening Program
Street Name
City, State Zip
[Link to Website](#)

Who Screens Newborns?

STATE encourages all providers, including midwives, to screen newborns. By performing the screening, midwives play a key role in promoting the health and well-being of babies and families.

- ❖ Parents may choose to refuse screening for religious reasons. In a community birth setting, midwives may choose to:
 - ❖ Perform the screenings.
 - ❖ Refer the newborn to another provider to perform the screenings.

How Are Screens Performed?

- ❖ Educate parents about newborn screenings benefits and options so they may engage in informed choice discussions.
- ❖ Perform the newborn screenings, which are evidence-based, safe, and will not harm the baby.
- ❖ Submit results immediately with accurate contact information to ensure timely processing and receipt of results.
- ❖ Discuss next steps with parents in the event of a positive screen.

When Are Screens Performed?



During the first month of life



24 to 48 hours after birth



1st: 24 to 48 hours after birth
2nd: 5-10 days of age

Timeliness of newborn screening is critical to promoting healthy child development.

What is Newborn Screening?



Hearing Screening



Pulse Oximetry Screening for Critical Congenital Heart Disease (CCHD)



Bloodspot Screening for over 75 disorders, including:

- ❖ Metabolic Disorders
- ❖ Endocrine Disorders
- ❖ Hemoglobin Disorders
- ❖ Cystic Fibrosis
- ❖ Severe Combined Immunodeficiency (SCID)



How Do I Learn More?

- ❖ Screening Steps and Guidelines
- ❖ Screening Equipment & Materials
- ❖ Parent Education Materials

Available at www.STATENBS.com

What Are the Next Steps?

- ❖ In the event of an abnormal screen, the screening is typically repeated to confirm initial results.
- ❖ Communicate with parents about the possibility of false positive or false negative results.
- ❖ If the screen is positive, it is important to begin developing a collaborative plan of care in order to support the overall health and well-being of the babies and their families.