

Newborn screening: Heart screen

Three simple screens

1
BLOOD
SCREEN

2
HEARING
SCREEN

3
HEART
SCREEN

A baby may look healthy but be born with a serious **heart condition**



All babies in the United States receive newborn screening. Each state decides which conditions to screen for.

Helps identify conditions called **critical congenital heart disease (CCHD)**.



If found early, many can be treated.

Heart screen process


Pulse oximetry

Within 48 hours of a baby's birth, a health care provider places a sensor on the baby's hand and foot for a few minutes.

This test is called pulse oximetry. It checks the amount of oxygen in the baby's blood.

Low blood oxygen may be a sign of a heart condition.


Results

If the baby has low levels of blood oxygen, the health care team will re-test. If the baby's blood oxygen is still low, the team may re-test again or perform other testing, such as an echocardiogram and be seen by a cardiologist.


Follow-up

All heart screening results are reported to the baby's provider. If the screening is negative (normal results) the baby is released from the hospital and no additional testing is needed.

Positive screen results require further testing and immediate follow-up.

Positive screen:

- ✓ Provider is notified.
- ✓ Provider follows up with baby's family and refers the baby immediately to a pediatric cardiologist for:
 - ✓ More testing, like an echocardiogram
 - ✓ Surgery, if needed, to repair a heart condition

Negative screen:

- ✓ Baby is released from the hospital and no additional testing is needed.



[MARCHOFDIMES.ORG](https://www.marchofdimes.org)