

# Newborn screening: Heart screen

## Three simple screens

**1**  
BLOOD  
SCREEN

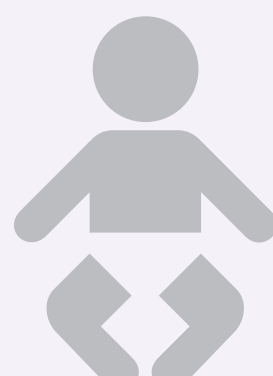
**2**  
HEARING  
SCREEN

**3**  
HEART  
SCREEN

All babies in the United States receive newborn screening.

Each state decides which conditions to screen for.

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



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.

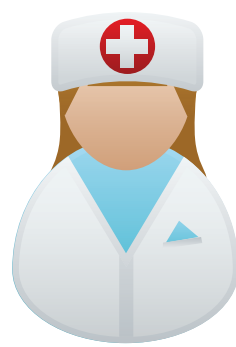
This test is called **pulse oximetry**. It checks the amount of oxygen in the baby's blood.

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



**Results**

If the baby has **low levels of blood oxygen**: Test again 1 and 2 hours after the first test.



**Follow-up**

All heart screening results should be reported to the baby's provider.

### 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.



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