# These Tests Could Save Your Baby's Life

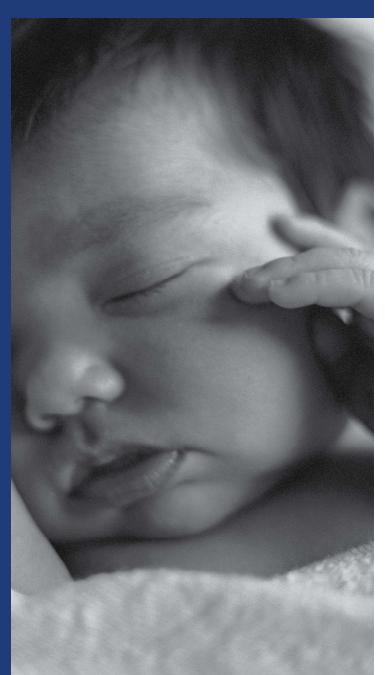
Newborn Screening Tests

Texas Department of State Health Services
Newborn Screening Program
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Austin, Texas 78756

800-252-8023 ext. 3957 dshs.texas.gov/newborn



Texas Department of State Health Services



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#### What is a newborn screen?

- A few babies who look healthy at birth have a rare birth defect or disorder.
- The screening tests check to see if your newborn has one.
- If found early, we can help prevent serious problems, such as intellectual/ developmental disabilities, illness, or death.

All babies born in Texas have their blood screened for a number of rare genetic disorders or medical conditions. The newborn screening website (dshs.texas.gov/newborn) provides a list of all conditions that are tested. Look for the "screened disorders" link.

#### How is my baby tested?

The test is done using drops of blood taken from your baby's heel 1 to 2 days after birth. A second sample of blood must be taken to test again at 7 to 14 days of age in your doctor's office or clinic.

### But we've never had any birth defects in our family...

- Many of the babies born with these problems are from healthy families.
- The chances are good that your child does NOT have one since these disorders are not very common.
- By testing your baby, we can find out if he or she has a disorder and start early treatment.

### I received a letter from the "Followup Program." What is that?

 The Follow-up Program helps your baby receive the care he or she may need if a screen result is unusual.

- First, the Program contacts your doctor or clinic about doing more testing.
- When you are contacted to take your baby in for more tests, please do so quickly.
- As part of the Program, public health nurses and social workers can help families with follow-up steps.
- The Follow-up Program also helps to make sure your child's health is checked on a regular basis.
- If you move to a new address or change your phone number, be sure to tell your doctor or clinic so you can be reached for check-ups.

## If my baby has one of these disorders, can it be cured?

- We can't cure these disorders.
   But early treatment may prevent or control serious health problems.
- Doctors who specialize in these disorders are available to assist doctors with diagnosis and treatment of babies with a disorder. Your doctor might send you to one of these specialists.

