

# Looking at your baby's heart, eyes, hips and testicles (balls)

An **easy guide** to screening tests for your new baby



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## Your choice

NHS

Looking at your baby's heart,  
eyes, hips and testicles (balls)

An easy guide to screening tests for your new baby



This booklet has information about the tests that your baby can have.

The tests can find out if your baby may have a serious health problem. The tests can show if your baby might need extra care.

The tests can find problems early but may not find every problem.

If we find a problem early we can help your baby.

YES

NO



You can choose if you want your baby to have these tests. You can say no to any of them.



If you are worried, talk with the midwife or doctor who does the tests. They can help you decide.

**PRIVATE**

We will keep your test results private.

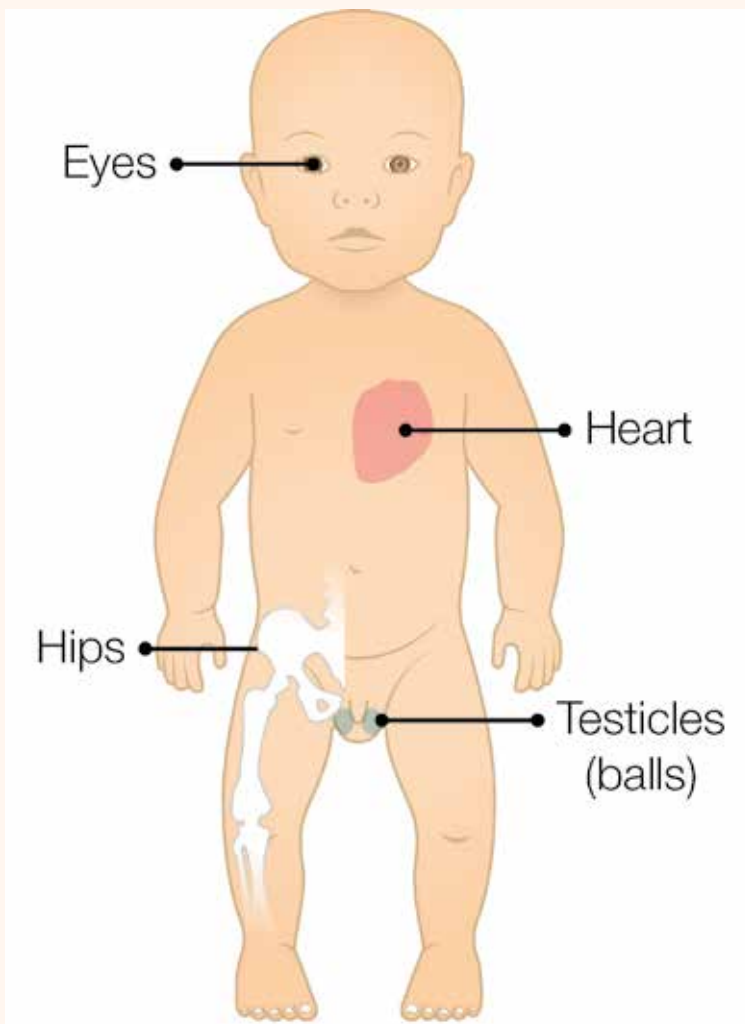
We only show the results of the test to health staff who need to see them.



It is important to tell your midwife or health visitor about any health problems you and the baby's father have, as your baby may have them too.



Before your baby is 3 days old you will be asked if you want some tests.



These tests look at your baby's heart, eyes, hips and testicles (balls).



The same tests will be done again when your baby is 6 to 8 weeks old.



The midwife or doctor will ask you some questions about your baby.



They will look at your baby. They will ask you to take your baby's clothes off.



These tests will not hurt your baby.

Not many babies will have problems with their heart, eyes, hips or testicles (balls) but it is important to know if they do.



## Looking at the heart



This test checks your baby's heart is beating well.

A midwife or doctor will listen to your baby's heart to hear how well it is beating.

## Looking at the eyes



A midwife or doctor will look into your baby's eyes.

This test is to check how well your baby's eyes move and to check for cataracts. Cataracts make your eyes blurry and can make your baby go blind.

## Looking at the hips



This test is to check your baby's hips have grown properly.

A midwife or doctor will check your baby's hips to make sure they move well.

When some babies are born their hips have not grown properly.

If this is not treated then it can hurt when these babies toddle and walk. It can make them limp.

## Looking at the testicles (balls)



A midwife or doctor checks the testicles (balls) of baby boys to see if they are in the right place.

It can take months for testicles (balls) to drop down into the right place in the body.

If they do not drop down and the boy is not treated then he may not be able to have children when he is older.



## Test results



You will get the results straight away.

Most babies have no problems.

If we think there may be a problem we will ask an expert to see your baby.



You will be given a red book to keep a record of your baby's health checks in. Keep the red book safe.

Take it with you when you see anyone about your baby's health.



### New home

It is important to tell your midwife or health visitor if you move home.

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Find out how Public Health England and the NHS use and protect your screening information at [www.gov.uk/phe/screening-data](http://www.gov.uk/phe/screening-data).

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