



UK National
Screening Committee



Screening Programmes

Newborn Blood Spot

Addendums to Health Professional Handbook

Last updated January 2014

The following addendums will be made to the Health Professional Handbook (2012):

Section 3.3 Congenital hypothyroidism (CHT)

What is CHT?

Paragraph 9:

To ensure preterm infants are appropriately screened for CHT, from 1st April 2012, all babies born at less than 32 weeks (less than or equal to 31 weeks + 6 days) should be offered a preterm repeat test at 28 days of age or discharge home, whichever is the sooner. This policy means that babies eligible for a CHT preterm repeat test should complete their newborn blood spot tests before they are discharged home from hospital. The explanation to be given to parents is that in babies born at less than 32 weeks of pregnancy, the routine day 5 test may not pick up congenital hypothyroidism. It is advised to have another test at either 28 days of age or immediately before the baby is discharged home, whichever comes first.

Section 4.6 Repeat samples

First table on p33:

Additional entry: A preterm baby (born at <32 weeks gestation) has had 'CHT not suspected' screening result on the first sample.

Explanation: Babies born at less than 32 weeks of pregnancy, the routine day 5 test may not pick up congenital hypothyroidism. It is advised to have another test at either 28 days of age or immediately before the baby is discharged home, whichever comes first.

