



Your baby needs a repeat blood spot screening test: information for parents and carers

All newborn babies are offered blood spot screening to test for 9 rare but serious conditions. When your baby was about 5 days old a blood sample was taken from their heel for the screening test.

Sometimes, a second blood spot sample is needed. There are 2 main reasons for this:

1. The screening test could not be done

There are no screening results because there was something wrong with the card or the blood sample. For example, there was not enough blood or information was missing or inaccurate on the card. It does not mean we suspect anything is wrong with your baby.

2. The screening test result is not complete

Less commonly, the test needs to be repeated for other reasons, including:

- your baby's first test result is unclear (on most occasions, the repeat test result is normal)
- your baby had a blood transfusion or was premature, so another test is needed when they are older, to be certain of their screening results

The person taking the repeat sample will explain the reason for the second sample to you. Please feel free to ask any questions. Once they have taken the repeat blood sample from your baby, they will send it to your local screening laboratory for testing.

You should receive the results within 2 weeks of the second sample being taken, either by letter or from your health visitor. If we think that your baby may have one of the conditions being screened for, we will contact you sooner.

If you do not receive the result by the time your baby is 6 weeks old, please contact your health visitor. Details are in your Personal Child Health Record ('Red Book'). If you are worried about your baby in any way while waiting for this result, you should contact your midwife, health visitor or GP.

Please keep this sheet with your baby's personal records.

More information about newborn blood spot screening is available at:

www.nhs.uk/bloodspot.