Newborn Screening Tests
These tests could save your baby’s life
What is newborn screening tests?

- The newborn screening test can tell you if your baby has any hereditary (health problems that are passed on from parents to babies) or hormonal problems.
- The newborn screening test is done within the first 24 to 48 hours after the baby’s birth.

Why does my baby need newborn screening tests?

- Most babies are healthy when they are born.
- All babies are tested because a few babies look healthy but have a rare health problem.
- If we find and treat the problem early, we can avoid serious problems like poor intellectual development or death.
- Parents who have no family history of these problems or who have already had healthy children can still have babies with these health problems.

How will my baby be tested?

- Before you leave the birth hospital, a nurse or a technician will take a few drops of blood from your baby’s heel onto filter paper card (Newborn Screening Specimen Card).
- The blood sample will be sent to the laboratory.
- Make sure that the hospital and your baby’s doctor have your full and correct current address and phone number.
- Your baby will be also offered a hearing screening and comprehensive physical examination by a specialist doctor.
How will I get the test results for my baby?
- The health professional will call you to give you the test result of your baby.
- If there is a problem with the test result you will be called to visit the doctor.

Why do some babies need to repeat the test?
- Your baby may be retested if you leave the birth hospital before 24 hours of your baby's birth.
- Some babies need to be retested because there is a problem with the blood sample.
- A few babies need to be retested because the first test showed a possible health problem.

What happens if my baby needs to repeat the test?
- You will be told if your baby needs to be retested and what to do next.
- If your baby needs to be retested, get it done right away.

What happens if I leave the hospital before my baby is tested?
The nurse will give you a Newborn Screening Specimen Card to take to the Laboratory for the test.

What are the health problems that my baby will be tested for?
Your baby will be tested for the following family inherited and hormonal problems.
Phenylketonuria is a family inherited problem, in which a baby is born without the ability to break down protein found in the food and milk. If not treated, intellectual development may be affected.

Congenital Hypothyroidism
The baby’s thyroid gland does not make enough thyroid hormone. If not treated, intellectual development may be affected and poor growth may result.

Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia
is family inherited problem, in which the baby’s adrenal gland does not make enough hormones. If not treated, poor growth and poor sexual development may result.

Sickle Cell Disease
is family inherited blood problem, in which the baby’s red blood cells change from their normal round shape to crescent shape, which affect the blood to reach different parts of the body. If not treated, low hemoglobin (anemia), infection, pain may result.

Thalassemia
is family inherited blood problem, in which the baby’s body makes fewer red blood cells and less Hemoglobin. If not treated low hemoglobin, pain, infection, poor growth may result.
Galactosemia is a family inherited problem in which a baby is born without the ability to break down sugar called galactose, found in milk and most infant formulas (except soy). If not treated, poor growth, yellow skin may result. In some cases brain and liver may be affected.

Biotinidase is a family inherited problem in which the baby’s body is not able to properly use vitamin biotin (one of the B vitamins sometimes called vitamin H). If not treated, poor development, poor muscle tone, hearing and vision loss may result.

Cystic Fibrosis is a family inherited problem in which sticky secretions builds up in the lung and gut. If not treated chest infection, poor growth may result.

Hearing Loss is a problem in which a baby is not able to hear sounds. If not found early, poor speech may result.

Glucose 6-Phosphate Dehydrogenase (G6PH) is a family inherited problem in which the baby’s body has lack of Glucose 6–phosphate dehydrogenase (an enzyme found in red blood cells) which protects the red blood cells from being destroyed early. If not treated, low hemoglobin, infection may result.
What does it mean if the test result was positive?

If the test result was positive, this does not necessarily mean that your baby has any of these health problems. This test only finds babies that are at increased risk for these health problems. More testing and examination by specialist are then usually required to find out if the disorder is present. The extra testing is important because early diagnosis and treatment can prevent many health related problems.

How are these conditions treated?

The treatment for each condition is different. Treatment may include a special diet, hormones, and/or medications. If your baby has one of these conditions, it is very important to start the treatment as soon as possible.

For more information about your Newborn Screening Program, please contact the Health Authority of Abu Dhabi call Center at 800-800

To download newborn screening pamphlets, please log to our website: http://www.haad.ae

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