

## Baby is Home!

Now that you and your baby are home, we want you to know what happens following the screening tests that were done while your baby was in the hospital. You can get the results of these tests from your doctor.



## Family Health Information Line

If you need more information about any of the newborn screening services or programs described in this guide, call the Family Health Information Line, toll-free, at 1-800-942-7434, weekdays from 8:30am to 4:30pm. Our team speaks English and Spanish.

MAKE HEALTH PART OF YOUR FAMILY  
RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

## Newborn Screening and Services

A guide to test results, programs,  
and follow-up for your baby.





## Newborn Blood Screening

Your baby had a blood test in the hospital to check for metabolic (how the body digests food), endocrine (controls many body functions) and hemoglobin (blood) conditions (refer to insert for more details about the conditions). This blood sample will be stored until your baby reaches adulthood.

Sometimes this test needs to be repeated. This does not necessarily mean that your baby has a condition. If your baby's test needs to be repeated, a doctor or nurse will call and tell you. The repeat test should be done as soon as possible. It is best to have the repeat test done at the hospital where your baby was born, but you can go to the lab at any maternity hospital in Rhode Island. Results from these tests are reported to your baby's doctor. Tests are available for many conditions beyond those included in Rhode Island's Newborn Screening Program. These additional tests are available for a fee through other labs. If you would like to have your baby receive additional testing, talk to your baby's doctor.

## Newborn Hearing Screening

In the hospital your baby's hearing was screened to measure how the ear responded to soft sounds. Sometimes the hearing screening needs to be repeated if the results are unclear. The Rhode Island Hearing Assessment Program will contact you if your baby needs to be retested. Bring your baby back to the hospital for the test as soon as possible.

If the test shows your baby might have hearing loss or your baby has risk factors for hearing loss, the Hearing Assessment Program will recommend that you take your baby to a hearing specialist (audiologist) for more testing.

If you have questions about your baby's hearing or test results, call the Hearing Assessment Program at 401-277-3700 voice/relay or 401-277-3701 TDD.

Your baby's doctor will continue to check your baby's hearing, speech, and language development along with other developmental milestones at each visit.

## Family Outreach Program

While you and your baby were in the hospital, a nurse reviewed your pregnancy and delivery records. They looked to see if there were any reasons your baby's development could be delayed. Based on the review of your records, the nurse may have referred you to the Family Outreach Program.

The Family Outreach Program is a home visiting program for families with newborns and young children at no cost to the family. The program offers information on topics such as breastfeeding and nutrition, when to call your baby's doctor, and how to make your home safe for your baby. Home visitors provide support and link you to resources in your community that help you and your baby get off to a healthy start.

You may be offered a visit to have your baby's growth and development checked again at 6-8 months of age. The home visitor can help connect your baby to the Early Intervention Program or other early childhood programs if needed.

If you are interested in receiving a home visit and have not been offered one, please call the Family Health Information Line at 1-800-942-7434, weekdays from 8:30am to 4:30pm.

## Birth Defects Program

Babies identified with birth defects in the newborn period are included in a Birth Defects Information System at the Department of Health. The Program helps make sure that families and their children receive appropriate services and referrals. This information is also used to study patterns of birth defects. All information in the registry is confidential and is protected under state and federal privacy laws.

If you do not want your child's information entered into the Birth Defects Information System, you may either contact your child's doctor directly or call the Family Health Information Line at 1-800-942-7434, weekdays from 8:30am to 4:30pm. You also have the right to restrict the release of information on your child from the Information System and to chose to not be contacted by the Birth Defects Program.

## KIDSNET

All babies born in Rhode Island are enrolled in KIDSNET, the Rhode Island information system that helps families and doctors make sure that children receive complete preventive health care. As your baby grows, your doctor and others will add your child's immunizations and information from the following health screenings: developmental assessment, newborn hearing, newborn blood screening, and lead screening. Information from your baby's birth certificate and from the



Family Outreach, Early Intervention, and WIC Programs is also included.

KIDSNET is used to remind families and doctors when immunizations, lead screenings, and other services are needed. If your child has been to different doctors, KIDSNET will keep track of all of his or her immunizations in one place. KIDSNET also helps to see whether all Rhode Island children are getting the care they need.

KIDSNET information is confidential and is protected under State and Federal privacy laws. Only the Health Department, doctors, nurses, and other approved professionals such as school nurses or the Head Start Program can see KIDSNET



information. You have the right to see your child's information. If you feel the information is incorrect or incomplete, you have the right to ask that it be changed. You also have the right to restrict who can see your child's information. For details about how to do this, call KIDSNET at 401-222-4220, weekdays from 8:30am to 4:00pm.