

Borderline Newborn Screening Results

What does it mean to be borderline?

A borderline result means that the test was almost normal, but not quite. Because the disorders that newborn screening finds are so serious, it is important to double check the results to make sure we get them right.

A borderline result does not mean your baby has a health problem!

Why does my baby need newborn screening repeated?

Newborn screening is done on tiny samples of blood taken from your baby's heel 24 to 48 hours after birth. Newborn screening tests for rare, hidden disorders that may affect your baby's health and development.

The results of one of your baby's newborn screening tests came back in the borderline range. This means that test results were between normal and abnormal.

Most babies with borderline test results are perfectly fine and healthy.

How can I get my baby's results?

Once your baby's sample arrives at the Newborn Screening Program, screening takes several days. The test results will be sent to your baby's doctor or clinic.

What will happen if the results are normal?

If the results are normal, no special testing or treatment will be needed. No further medical care in relation to this result will be needed. You can forget that your baby even had a borderline result. If you have questions, please speak with your doctor.

What will happen if the results are borderline again?

If the repeat test is borderline again or abnormal, your doctor will let you know what additional testing or treatment is needed.

Why is newborn screening important?

Almost every day, a baby is born in Minnesota that has a disorder that can be found by newborn screening.

These babies seem healthy at birth, but they need treatment right away.

Early treatment can prevent serious permanent problems.

Newborn screening is described in our "*Newborn Screening Fact Sheet*." If you have not seen it, it is available on our website.

Resources for parents

Minnesota Newborn Screening Program
www.health.state.mn.us/newbornscreening

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Newborn Screening Portal
www.cdc.gov/newbornscreening/

Health Resources & Services Administration Newborn Screening Information Center
<https://newbornscreening.hrsa.gov/>

