

# Newborn Screening Program

If you would like additional information, please contact:



**Illinois Department of Public Health**  
**Genetics, Newborn Screening & SIDS Program**  
Ridgely Building  
500 E. Monroe St., 1st floor  
Springfield, IL 62761-0001  
Phone: 217-785-8101  
TTY (hearing impaired use only): 800-547-0466  
[www.idph.state.il.us/healthwellness/genetics.htm](http://www.idph.state.il.us/healthwellness/genetics.htm)

Or Visit:  
[www.easylearngenetics.net](http://www.easylearngenetics.net)



Educational Materials Provided By:  
**The Chicago Center for Jewish Genetic Disorders**  
Thirty South Wells Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60606  
Phone: 312-357-4718  
E-mail: [jewishgeneticsctr@juf.org](mailto:jewishgeneticsctr@juf.org)  
[www.jewishgeneticscenter.org](http://www.jewishgeneticscenter.org)

**UIC** **UIC- Midwest Latino Health Research,  
Training and Policy Center**  
1640 West Roosevelt Road, Suite 636  
Chicago, Illinois 60608-6906  
Phone: (312) 413-1104  
Fax: (312) 996-3212

This project is being funded by the Illinois Department of Public Health

This information is to be used for educational and informational purposes only. This information does not represent advice regarding medical diagnosis or treatment, referrals to health care professionals, endorsements of health care products or any other recommendations. This information should not be relied upon as a substitute for consultation with your doctor or other qualified health care professional.



**The Chicago Center for Jewish  
Genetic Disorders**

**Midwest Latino Health Research,  
Training and Policy Center at  
University of Illinois at Chicago**

**Funded by:  
Illinois Department of Public Health**



# Did you know that...?



Babies born in the United States are required to go through a newborn screening at birth. The screening checks for various genetic and metabolic disorders, including certain blood disorders.

Sickle cell anemia is one of the diseases that can be detected through the screening. This type of anemia can lead to health complications and even death in some children; early detection can lead to early treatment.

Other disorders detectable through newborn screening, like phenylketonuria (PKU), can be treated with special metabolic dietary products.

Having a positive screening test means that additional tests are necessary to determine if the infant with an abnormal test has a specific disorder.

## **Newborn Screening Programs in Illinois**

Newborn screening is mandated and the only allowable exception is on religious grounds.

Illinois Department of Public Health administers the Newborn Screening Program in Illinois.

## **Participating in newborn screening can save your baby's life.**

### **Why does my baby need the newborn screening test?**

- Babies may look healthy at birth even if they have a rare disease that can cause health problems.
- If the problem is found early, serious problems like mental retardation or death may be prevented.

### **How will my baby be tested?**

- Before you leave the hospital, a nurse will take a few drops of blood from your baby's heel.
- The hospital will send the blood samples to the Illinois Department of Public Health newborn screening laboratory.

### **How will I get the results of the test?**

- Health care providers are notified of test results if there is a problem.
- Before you leave the hospital, make sure your address and telephone number are correct and updated so you can be contacted. Remember, this is very important for your baby's health.

### **What if I have questions?**

- Ask your baby's health care provider if you have any questions or concerns.
- You can find information about newborn screening on these websites:  
[www.easylearngenetics.net](http://www.easylearngenetics.net)  
[www.idph.state.il.us/HealthWellness/genetics.htm](http://www.idph.state.il.us/HealthWellness/genetics.htm)