



Possible Thalassemia (FA?)

What is newborn screening?

Newborn screening is a blood test to check for conditions that might be hidden at birth. To do the screening, a nurse takes a few drops of blood from your baby's heel soon after birth. With newborn screening, many conditions can be found and treated early.



What does my baby's newborn screen show?

The newborn screen

indicates that your baby has fetal hemoglobin, normal hemoglobin and, possibly, another abnormality such as

thalassemia. **This newborn screen means that your baby should have more testing.** Your baby should follow up with a hematologist, a doctor who specializes in blood disorders, by 6 months of age.

What causes thalassemia?

Thalassemia is inherited. This means it's passed from parent to child through genes. A gene is part of your body's cells that stores instructions for the way our body grows and works. Genes come in pairs—you get one of each pair from a parent.

What happens next?

Your baby should be seen by a hematologist before he/she is 6 months old. The hematologist will talk to you about the best plan for your baby. If your baby has a fever, it is important to let your doctor know as soon as possible. All fevers greater than 101°F should be promptly evaluated by a doctor.

KEY POINTS:

- With newborn screening, conditions such as thalassemia can be found and treated early.
- Thalassemia is an inherited blood disorder that is characterized by anemia.
- Your baby should be seen by a specialist called a hematologist by 6 months of age.
- Notify your doctor as soon as possible if your baby has a fever.

Connecticut Department of Public Health

Connecticut Newborn Screening Program • 860.920.6628

Connecticut Newborn Diagnosis and Treatment Network • 860.837.7870

Adapted, with permission, from the Minnesota Department of Public Health

What if I still have questions?

We understand that this can be an overwhelming and emotional process. Many families have questions and concerns. The Connecticut newborn Diagnosis and Treatment Network (the Network) is available to put you in touch with the best resource. To reach the Network, you can call 860-837-7870, Monday-Friday, 8:30am-4:30pm. We also recommend the website www.babysfirsttest.org as an accurate and informative resource.



This fact sheet was written for information purposes only. It should not replace medical advice, diagnosis or treatment.