

# What is newborn screening?

*“Newborn screening is an important component of initial baby care. And what it really helps to identify are whether there are any pre-existing risk factors in the baby that could potentially cause problems as the baby is growing, that we would want to know sooner than later in order to be able to intervene and correct those problems. And those problems can include things such as various metabolic disorders within the baby that often don't present until later in life. It can also include various disorders of the blood, Hemoglobin, which can also sometimes cause problems there.*

*The risks that are involved with newborn screening really only have to do with two things. One is that your baby will require a poke generally on the heel in order to obtain the blood, and secondly, whatever information is actually gleaned from the newborn screen. In most cases it's important information that will ultimately lead to better care for the baby.”*