

Screening tests completed in the hospital before your baby heads home

Dear Expectant Parent(s):

Massachusetts law requires all newborns to undergo several screening tests before being discharged to home.

Hearing Screen

Your baby's hearing will be tested using a test called a BAER. You will receive information regarding this important screening test. Identifying hearing loss early in a baby's life can improve their development of language skills. Please see this link by the National Institute of Health regarding universal screening for all newborns: <https://report.nih.gov/nihfactsheets/ViewFactSheet.aspx?csid=104>

Congenital Cyanotic Heart Disease

About 1% of newborns will be born with an abnormality in the structure of their heart. In order to improve the baby's care, it is important for this abnormality to be identified before the newborn is discharged to home. This test is simple and painless. It is usually performed at approximately 36 hours of age and is not reliable if performed before 24 hours of age. Please see this link for additional information: <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/heartdefects/screening.html>

Massachusetts' New England Newborn Screening Program

The Massachusetts' Department of Public Health requires all newborns be tested for metabolic diseases. Although these conditions are rare, if your newborn has a condition and it is identified early it may be lifesaving. The test is simple and only requires a few drops of blood to be placed on absorbent paper and sent to the State Lab in Worcester, MA. Your doctor or health clinic will be informed when the tests are completed. Generally, parents are notified only if there is a problem, but you can ask about the results when you bring the baby to the doctor or clinic for a regular checkup. You can find additional information here: <https://nensp.umassmed.edu/sites/nensp.umassmed.edu/files/English.pdf>

Assessment of Newborn Jaundice

Every newborn develops some degree of jaundice, the result of elevated levels of bilirubin in the blood, in the first few days. Babies are universally screened for jaundice before heading home. Your doctor will determine whether or not the baby needs to be treated. You will receive more information on this common condition if this is necessary.

Screening tests completed in the hospital before your baby heads home continued

Car Seat Challenge Test

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that all infants born at less than 37 weeks gestation undergo a car seat challenge test (CSCT). In this test, the newborn is placed in the family's infant car seat and the newborn's heart rate, respirations and oxygen levels are monitored for 90 minutes. The test will be interrupted if the newborn's vital signs become abnormal in those 90 minutes. The baby will be gently stimulated to breath and he will be removed from the car seat. If the test was performed in the newborn nursery, the infant will be transferred to the level II nursery for continuous monitoring to confirm the infant is healthy. If the CSCT is performed in the level II nursery (e.g. baby was premature) and the newborn drops his oxygenation or heart rate, the baby may be discharged in a car bed. Car beds are available for sale in the gift shop at Mount Auburn Hospital 7-days a week. Please use this link for more information on this topic:

<https://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/125/3/597>

We hope this information helps to describe the care we provide in keeping your baby healthy and safe while at Mount Auburn Hospital.

Please feel free to contact us at the email addresses listed below, if you have any further questions. If you would like to meet with us before your baby is born to discuss any specific concerns, ask your OB provider to make contact with us.

We look forward to caring for you and your baby at Mount Auburn Hospital.

Sincerely,



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