

Screening for Critical Heart Disease in Newborns

If your baby has a positive screen for serious newborn heart disease it means that the oxygen in your baby's blood was low on the screening test. This may be a sign of serious heart disease, breathing problems, or infection. Additional tests can help find out more about the problems.

Your baby's doctor will do a physical exam on your baby. Your baby may have low oxygen levels in their blood but may NOT have a serious heart defect. After your baby has been examined, a health care provider will talk to you about the care your baby's care needs.

The doctor may ask for an ultrasound picture of your baby's heart. If the hospital does not have the machine needed for the ultrasound, your baby may be transferred to another hospital.

When transferred, your baby will receive care from a team of specialists including nurses and a pediatric cardiologist. They will also have the machines needed to properly examine your baby.

Some babies may get very sick during the transfer. Tests may show they need heart surgery right away. Babies with serious heart disease can get very sick and die without this kind of special care.



Where can I get more information?

- Ask the health care provider caring for your baby about oxygen level screening (called pulse ox).
- Visit [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov) (under the search term "CCHD") for information in English and Spanish from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- Visit dshs.texas.gov/newborn-screening-program/critical-congenital-heart-disease-cchd or scan the QR code below.



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