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Newborn Screening

Hearing Screening

Hearing loss can occur in newborns and is often unexpected. About one in every 200 newborns has hearing loss that can affect speech and language development. Hearing loss in newborns can be detected by a simple screening test.

While sleeping, your baby’s hearing will be checked using special computerized equipment. The screening test is painless and takes just a few minutes. You will have the results of the test before you leave the hospital.

If your baby passes, it means that hearing loss was not found at birth. If your baby does not pass, it does not mean the baby is hearing impaired, only that the baby will need another test. An additional test may be done before you leave the hospital, or you will be told how to arrange another test.

Newborn Screening

The State of Michigan requires that screening tests be performed to detect rare but serious disorders in your newborn. This test is performed before your baby is 24 hours old. Screening tests use just a few drops of your baby’s blood to check for these disorders. If not detected early, these disorders can cause mental retardation, serious health problems, or even death. Most babies with these disorders appear healthy at birth, but the screening tests can identify infants before they get sick. Once these
conditions are identified, some can be treated or parents can take steps to avoid serious risk to the child.

Your baby’s healthcare provider will be notified of the test results and will contact you if they are not normal. If one of the tests comes back positive, it does not necessarily mean that your baby has the disorder. Many babies have a borderline first test, in which case a second test is required. For babies whose test suggests a high chance of having a disorder, the baby will be referred to a medical specialist for confirmation of diagnosis and treatment.

For more information and a list of the tested disorders, visit the Michigan Department of Community Health website at http://www.michigan.gov/mdch/ and search “Newborn Screening Program.”

**Pulse Oximetry Screening**

Before discharge, your baby’s blood oxygen will be measured with a pulse oximeter. This painless test checks for heart disease in otherwise well-appearing newborns. If the oxygen saturation level is low, the baby’s healthcare provider will order additional tests.

**Bilirubin Screen**

Jaundice is common in newborn infants. Jaundice occurs when there is a buildup of a naturally occurring substance in the blood called bilirubin. A buildup of bilirubin can cause the skin and eyes to appear yellowish in color. Your healthcare provider will check the baby’s bilirubin to make sure it remains at a safe level. This is done with a bilimeter gently placed
against your baby’s chest or with a blood sample taken from the baby’s heel.

**Vaccines**

During your stay in the hospital after your baby’s birth, you and your partner will be given information about the Hepatitis B immunization for your newborn. Your newborn should receive the first dose of this vaccine in the hospital, shortly after birth.

Before the age of 6 months, your baby will receive a variety of other vaccinations to protect him or her from serious diseases. An outline of these vaccinations, what they protect against, and when they are typically given is shown below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vaccine</th>
<th>When Baby Receives Vaccination</th>
<th>Protects Against</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DTaP</td>
<td>5 doses, first three at 2, 4, and 6 months</td>
<td>Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis (Whooping Cough)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hib</td>
<td>4 doses, first three at 2, 4, and 6 months</td>
<td>A serious blood, brain, joint, and lung infection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCV</td>
<td>4 doses, first three at 2, 4, and 6 months</td>
<td>A serious blood, lung, and brain infection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polio</td>
<td>4 doses, first two at 2 and 4 months</td>
<td>Polio, a serious paralyzing disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rotavirus</td>
<td>3 doses, at 2, 4, and 6 months</td>
<td>Severe diarrhea and vomiting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influenza</td>
<td>2 the first year, starting at 6 months, and 1 per year after that</td>
<td>Severe flu and complications</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
*Please understand that vaccine recommendations change often. The information above is meant to serve as a guide for the vaccines that your baby will likely receive. If you have questions about vaccines that are not on this list, or other general questions regarding vaccinations, please talk to your baby’s pediatrician.