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# Newborn screening – for your child's health

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## **A chance for all newborns**

It is important to take advantage of newborn screening tests. These tests allow for the early diagnosis and treatment of congenital disorders.

## **Screening for congenital disorders of the metabolism, blood, endocrine system, immune system and neuromuscular systems**

All disorders are treatable. Overall, about one in 900 newborns is diagnosed with one of these conditions. As affected babies may appear perfectly healthy at birth, screening is important for early detection. The cost is covered by your health insurance. Screening is voluntary. For more information on the different conditions screened for, see the English version of the information sheet for parents.

## **Early diagnosis is essential**

The screening programme identifies the small number of babies who may have one of these rare conditions. Early diagnosis and treatment can usually prevent complications such as mental or physical disability, or even death.

## **A few drops of blood is enough**

All tests are carried out using just a few drops of blood taken from your baby. The best time to carry out the test is between 36 and 48 hours after birth. The test should always be carried out before you take your baby home from the hospital. The blood spot card is examined in the laboratory using very accurate, special tests.

## **No news is good news**

If the results indicate a disorder, you as the parents will be informed immediately. Normal results from healthy babies are only sent to the hospital or midwife. In rare cases, it may be necessary to take a few more drops of blood. This does not mean that there is something wrong, just that the test has not given a clear result.

## **Treatment**

Treatment may include a special diet and/or medication. With early diagnosis and treatment, young patients can usually develop normally.

## **Information that reassures**

If you have any further questions about the test or the procedure, please contact your gynaecologist, obstetrician, midwife or the screening laboratory. They will be happy to advise you in full.

## **DECLARATION OF CONSENT**

You can consent to the screening of your newborn baby by signing the German version of the information sheet for parents.