

What is the State of Maryland's role in CCHD screening?

- ♥ In 2011, a law was passed requiring hospitals and birthing centers to screen all babies between 24-48 hours of birth for CCHD.
- ♥ The CCHD Program was established in the Office for Genetics and People with Special Health Care Needs.
- ♥ Pulse Oximetry Screening training was made available to hospital staff.
- ♥ Hospitals report screening results electronically to the CCHD Program.
- ♥ The CCHD Program determines outcomes for babies who failed the screen.
- ♥ The CCHD Program also provides surveillance and quality assurance reports back to the hospitals



Did you know?

Approximately 2 out of every 1,000 infants are born with a critical congenital heart defect.

Screening for a critical congenital heart defect can save a baby's life if a serious heart defect is diagnosed before the baby goes home.

Questions?

- ♥ Ask your doctor or nurse if you have questions or concerns.
- ♥ Call the CCHD Program at **443-681-3916**
- ♥ Visit our website:
phpa.dhmh.maryland.gov/genetics



The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
Office for Genetics and People with
Special Health Care Needs

Critical Congenital Heart Disease Screening



*Pulse Oximetry
Screening
saves lives!*

Larry Hogan, Governor
Boyd Rutherford, Lieutenant Governor
Van Mitchell, Secretary

Why do babies need to be screened for critical congenital heart defects?

- ♥ Some babies are born with heart defects that occur during the formation of the heart during pregnancy. These are called congenital heart defects since they are present at birth.
- ♥ Some congenital heart defects require immediate treatment in order to prevent death. These are called critical congenital heart defects or CCHD.
- ♥ Screening helps determine which babies may have a CCHD that needs immediate treatment.



How is CCHD screening performed?

- ♥ A device called a pulse oximeter is used.
- ♥ A sensor is placed on the baby's right hand and either foot with the use of a sticky strip (like a band-aid).
- ♥ CCHD may cause a baby to have different oxygen levels in the right hand from the oxygen levels in the feet.
- ♥ The right hand or a foot should be 95% or greater with less than 3% difference between the two extremities.



When is CCHD screening performed?

- ♥ It is performed 24-48 hours after birth or before discharge.
- ♥ CCHD screening should be done before your baby leaves the hospital.
- ♥ If your baby is born at home or in a birthing center, discuss how to have your baby screened for CCHD with your midwife or your baby's doctor.

Will the CCHD screening hurt my baby?

- ♥ No. The pulse oximeter uses a light beam so this is a painless screening.
- ♥ The screening can be done while the baby is awake or asleep.

What happens if the screening is abnormal?

- ♥ Your baby's doctor will check for reasons for low levels of oxygen in the blood.
- ♥ An echocardiogram (an ultrasound of the heart) may be ordered to test for critical congenital heart disease.
- ♥ Your baby's doctor may also consult with a pediatric cardiologist.
- ♥ Your baby **should not** leave the hospital until further testing has been completed!

Please note.....

CCHD screening is more accurate than a physical exam alone, but it does NOT identify all critical congenital heart defects. If your baby's CCHD screen was normal but he or she:

- seems extra sleepy
- is having a hard time eating
- is breathing rapidly

Contact your baby's doctor immediately!