



Ontario Newborn Screening Program
Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario
401 Smyth, Ottawa Ont. K1H 8L1

Reference #: A00001
2009-7-30

Dear Jane Doe

RE: DOE, Baby Boy

Date of Birth: 2009/01/01

Health Card Number: 1234567890

A blood sample was taken from your baby shortly after birth for the newborn screening test. Unfortunately, this sample was not satisfactory for testing.

The hospital/midwife that took the initial sample told us that they have not been able to contact you to tell you that we **need a repeat sample from your baby**. We are sending you this letter to make sure you know that your baby needs a repeat newborn screening test.

What is newborn screening?

Newborn screening is a blood test that helps to identify babies with rare but serious diseases. Every baby born in Ontario should have newborn screening. When these diseases are found early in life, immediate treatment can help prevent health problems, mental retardation, and in some case, death.

My baby is healthy. Why does he/she need newborn screening?

Newborn screening is important for all babies, because many of the diseases tested for cannot be seen at birth. A baby can have one of the diseases tested for but not show symptoms until later in life, when serious damage/health problems have already occurred.

Why does my baby need a repeat test?

Your baby's initial blood sample was not satisfactory for testing so he/she is still considered at risk for the diseases on the newborn screening test.

A blood sample can be unsatisfactory for many reasons including:

- the sample was taken before 24 hours of age (too early)
- there was not enough blood taken from the baby to perform the test

This means that the blood could not be tested, or the results could be wrong. Therefore your baby needs to have a repeat test. The reason why your baby's sample was not satisfactory was shared with the hospital/midwife that took the initial sample.

Take this letter with you to your family doctor's office or to a walk-in clinic as soon as possible. The doctor will help arrange for your baby to have a repeat newborn screen.

If you or your doctor has questions about this letter or how to arrange for a repeat newborn screen you can contact the Ontario Newborn Screening Program at (613) 783 3222. Additional information can be found on our website at www.newbornscreening.on.ca

Sincerely,

Members of the Ontario Newborn Screening Program

cc: Hospital Name
Family doctor