



Newborn Screening Bulletin 2024-3

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[Discussing newborn screening with families and disclosing positive results](#)

Notifying parents about the newborn screen, prior to obtaining the dried blood spot sample, is a crucial opportunity to educate parents about the purpose and potential impact of the screen on their baby's health and to empower parents to make informed decisions and actively participate in their baby's care. Performing newborn screening for all babies born in Ontario is the standard of care; however, some parents may choose to opt out of screening for their newborn.

When an infant screens positive, results must be disclosed to the family by an informed member of the health care team and conversations should include what results mean, information about the condition, next steps, and reassurance of the infant's stability.

We have added new resources to [our website](#) to help guide these conversations with families:

- The [Newborn Screening FAQ](#) handout can be provided to families and answers common questions about newborn screening, helping parents understand its purpose and what results mean. There is also a separate [FAQ for newborn screening in the NICU](#).
- The [Health Care Provider Tip Sheet](#) and [NICU Health Care Provider Tip Sheet](#) offer practical guidance for discussing positive screen results with families.

These resources are designed to complement your efforts in providing exemplary care to newborns and their families, and empower families to feel confident and informed about newborn screening. More information can be found on our website at [newbornscreening.on.ca](#).

Thank you for your dedication to the well-being of newborns and their families. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Newborn Screening Ontario

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