Arkansas Department of Health

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Governor Asa Hutchinson
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Repeat newborn screening
Information Sheet for Parents

Sometimes a baby may need a repeat newborn screen (heel stick) if the first screening result was unsatisfactory for testing or showed a borderline result. A borderline result is in the region of overlap (gray zone) between the normal and abnormal results. This does not mean that your child has a disorder. The results may show borderline even when a baby does not actually have a problem. Two of the main reasons for unsatisfactory or borderline newborn screening results are:

a. Too early specimen: if the blood was collected before 24 hours
b. Infant on total parenteral nutrition (special nutrition given through the vein)

Please remember, newborn screening is only that, a screening. Most of the repeat screening tests will be normal but in a few cases further testing may be required. If your baby's repeat screening remains unclear then further testing and evaluation will be undertaken. The results of your baby's repeat screening will be available after a few days of being received in the state lab. Your baby's doctor will talk with you about what steps need to be taken.

If you have any concerns about your baby's health please talk to your baby's doctor.

For more information contact:

ADH Newborn Screening Program: 1-866-769-9043 or 501-280-4683

Visit ADH Newborn Screening Program Website: http://www.arnewbornscreening.com

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