

Did Not Pass Result:

Your baby **did not pass** the pulse oximetry screen.



What are Critical Congenital Heart Defects (CCHDs)?

Congenital heart defects are the most common group of birth defects. Heart defects cause problems with the structure of the heart or the way blood flows through it. CCHD refers to heart defects that need to be fixed early to help prevent other health problems.

Why is screening for CCHD important?

Not all can be detected before birth. Without screening shortly after birth, babies with CCHD are sometimes sent home without care because they appear healthy. At home, these babies can develop serious health problems and often require emergency care. If CCHD is

detected early, however, infants can be treated and lead healthier lives.

How are babies screened for CCHD?

Babies are screened with a simple test called pulse oximetry. Pulse oximetry is a quick and painless procedure which uses stickers, called probes, placed on the baby's skin (usually the hand and foot) to determine the amount of oxygen in the blood.



What does it mean if my baby did not pass the pulse oximetry screen?

It means that the screen detected low oxygen levels in your baby's blood. Low oxygen levels can be a sign of CCHD or other conditions such as breathing problems or infections. More testing is needed to find out why a low oxygen level was detected.



What happens next?

Before you and your baby go home, your baby's care provider will arrange for further testing to determine if your baby has CCHD.

Further testing may include a repeat pulse oximetry screen, an echocardiogram (an ultrasound of the heart), an electrocardiogram (tests the electrical activity of the

heart), or a chest x-ray. If you are at a hospital that cannot provide this additional testing, your baby may need to be moved to a hospital that can.

If any of the results from the additional testing are of concern for CCHD, then your baby may need to see a heart doctor. A heart doctor is a doctor that specializes in problems with the hearts of infants, children, and teens.

If you are at a hospital that does not have a heart doctor, your baby may need to be moved to a different hospital that has a heart doctor on staff.

What is the treatment for CCHD?

Babies with CCHD typically need surgery within the first year of life. Each baby with CCHD will require a treatment plan developed for his or her specific heart defect.





CCHD Resources for Parents:

American Heart Association:

www.heart.org

Wisconsin SHINE Project:

<http://wisconsinshine.org>

Mended Little Hearts:

www.mendedlittlehearts.org

**The Children's Heart
Foundation:**

www.childrensheartfoundation.org



Prenatal Resources for Parents:

Every Woman North Carolina:

<http://everywomannc.com>

North Carolina Healthy Start:

www.nchealthystart.org

March of Dimes:

www.marchofdimes.com

Family Doctor:

<http://familydoctor.org/familydoctor/en/pregnancy-newborns/fetal-health.html>

For more information go to:

www.ncdhhs.gov/dph/wch/families/newbornmetabolic.htm



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