

Newborn Tests, Screenings, & Procedures

All babies in West Virginia are tested for very important health conditions.

These include:

Jaundice – After a baby is born, they do not require as many red blood cells. The excess red blood cells begin to breakdown and are excreted from the body by way of dirty and wet diapers. Bilirubin is the product left over after the extra blood cells have been broken down. This in turn can cause yellowing of the skin and eyes. Infants are tested and treated for the amount of bilirubin that is present by the following procedures:

- **TcB (transcutaneous bili):** A small hand-held meter that when placed on the infant's skin (typically the forehead) measures the yellowness of the skin in the jaundiced infant.
- **Bilirubin test:** One test that your baby may have is a bilirubin test. This test is typically preceded by an elevated TcB test result previously mentioned. A bilirubin test is obtained from a small amount of blood drawn from the infant's heel.
- **Phototherapy:** Once test results have determined an elevated bilirubin, our infants are placed in **phototherapy** which is a bed that uses special blue lighting that helps the bilirubin levels drop quickly.

Car Seat Challenge Test – The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends a Maxi care nursery seat test, or car seat challenge, before discharge for all babies born before 37 weeks gestation.

The car seat test makes sure that premature babies are able to sit in a car seat safely, without any episodes of desaturation (low oxygen levels), apnea (delayed breathing), or bradycardia (slow heart rate). During the car seat test, a premature baby is safely fastened into a car seat.

The baby's own car seat should be used whenever possible. The car seat will be placed at the correct angle for riding in a car, and the baby will be buckled into the car seat just like he or she would be during an actual car ride. A monitor will be used to measure the baby's heart rate, breathing, and oxygen saturation during the car seat test.

A car seat test should last for at least 90 minutes. If the baby has no episodes of apnea, bradycardia, or desaturation during the car seat test, then he has "passed" the test.

Circumcision – Parents have the option to have their baby boys circumcised. The provider may choose to use a medicine called **Lidocaine (a numbing agent)** for this procedure. A sucrose solution called

Sweetease may also be given to your baby to help soothe them during the procedure. Your baby may have some mild pain during and after. The provider will discuss with you the methods available and education on the care of the infant.

Blood Type – In order to determine your infant’s blood type, a blood sample will be sent to the lab.

CBC (Complete Blood Count) – A blood test used in providing the Pediatrician with information on how your infant is doing after the birth. Not all infants require this test.

T4PKU – A required nationwide screening completed on all newborns.

Hearing Screening – A Pediatric Newborn Hearing Screening will test all infants as required by law in the state of West Virginia. Hearing screening is a test using a machine to check for any hearing problems that may be present allowing for early intervention by your Pediatrician.

Oxygen Saturation – A simple procedure using a hand-held monitor to test the amount of oxygen in your baby’s body.