What is Newborn Screening (NBS)?

Newborn screening is a program that finds babies with rare diseases such as “PKU,” cystic fibrosis and sickle cell disease to ensure early treatment.

How is NBS done?

A few drops of blood are taken from a baby’s heel to fill five or six spots on a filter paper card. The card is then sent to the State Public Health Laboratory for testing. Whether a baby is born in the hospital or at home, NBS should be done between 24 and 36 hours after birth. If a baby has one of the conditions, treatment begins early and continues through life.

Michigan NBS looks for more than 50 conditions that may affect:

- Blood cells
- Brain development
- Hearing
- Hormones
- How the body breaks down food
- Immune system
- Lungs and breathing

My baby seems really healthy. Is NBS still needed?

Yes! Most babies with these conditions seem healthy at birth but can become very sick in a short time. If not found early, permanent and serious health problems can arise.

For more details please visit:
www.michigan.gov/newbornscreening
or call toll free 1-866-673-9939
What is the Michigan BioTrust for Health?
The BioTrust is a program that oversees use of left-over blood spots from newborn screening (NBS). There are many important uses for left-over blood spots. Studying blood spots may lead to new NBS tests. Research may also provide clues about different factors that impact health or cause diseases.

What happens to blood spots after NBS?
Once NBS is done, any unused parts of blood spots are stored indefinitely (forever).

- Blood spots may be used by the NBS lab for quality control.
- One blood spot is stored for personal use.
- After personal identifiers (e.g. name and birth date) are removed, remaining blood spots may be used for approved health research.

What do you need to know?
Blood spots from over 4 million people born in Michigan since July 1984 are in the BioTrust. If your or your child’s blood spots are in the BioTrust, you have options! You can do nothing and continue to allow blood spots to be used in approved health research, or you can opt-out by contacting the Department of Community Health. Blood spots collected after May 1, 2010, are only used for approved health research if a parent grants consent.

For more details please visit:
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