

Facts about Critical Congenital Heart Defects

- Critical Heart Defects are the most common type of birth defects (1% of all births).
- Nearly 7,200 babies are born each year with CCHDs.
- Babies can appear healthy at first without showing any signs something is wrong.
- An estimated 300 babies with unrecognized CCHDs are discharged each year from newborn nurseries in the U.S.
- A simple bedside screening can be done using pulse oximetry.



Kansas Public Health Quality Initiative Project

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) has launched a quality initiative program to increase awareness of Critical Congenital Heart Defects (CCHDs) and ensure that all babies in Kansas are being screened for CCHDs after birth. The project will also strive towards assurance of prompt care, connection to resources, long-term follow-up, and improvement of overall health outcomes for infants with CCHD.

A training program is being developed and implemented. KDHE and our partners are excited to have the opportunity to work with the community to implement a screening program that has the potential to save lives and improve outcomes for newborns.



Our Mission: To protect and improve the health and environment of all Kansans.

http://www.kdheks.gov/newborn_screening/CCHD.htm



Newborn Screening: Critical Congenital Heart Defects



Kansas Newborn Screening Program
1000 SW Jackson St., Topeka, KS 66612
(785) 296-0109

Critical Congenital Heart Defects



Congratulations on the birth of your new baby!

In the first few days of life we want to do everything we can to make sure your baby is healthy!

One of the screening tests that will be done is a measurement of the level of oxygen in your baby's blood. Low levels of oxygen saturation can mean that your baby

has a problem with his or her heart called a Critical Congenital Heart Defect or CCHD.

Although it is very rare, some babies can have serious heart problems but look normal in the first few days after birth.

Screening for Critical Congenital Heart Defects

- Pulse oximetry screening can find babies with severe heart defects known as CCHDs.
- Pulse oximetry uses a sensor with a light to look for low levels of oxygen in the blood.
- The sensor will be placed on your baby's right hand and one foot.
- The test is fast and won't hurt your baby.
- Pulse oximetry screening will usually be done between 24 and 48 hours after your baby is born.

What if a baby does not pass the pulse oximetry screening test?

- A baby does not pass the pulse oximetry screening if his/her oxygen level is ever less than 90% or if the levels are between 90 and 94% on three tries.
- Babies will also not pass the screening if there is more than 3% difference between the right hand and the foot on three tries.
- If your baby does not pass the pulse oximetry test, your baby may need more testing to look at your baby's heart; it does not mean your baby has a CCHD.
- Some babies who do not pass pulse oximetry screening are found to have normal hearts.

Will screening find all types of Critical Congenital Heart Defects?

Pulse oximetry screening is not a perfect test and will not find the kinds of heart problems that do not cause low oxygen levels.

