

For more information, visit:
www.dhss.alaska.gov/dph/wcfh/pages/metabolic



Questions?
Call 907-269-3400
Toll-free: 1-800-799-7570
Ask for the Newborn Metabolic
Screening Program



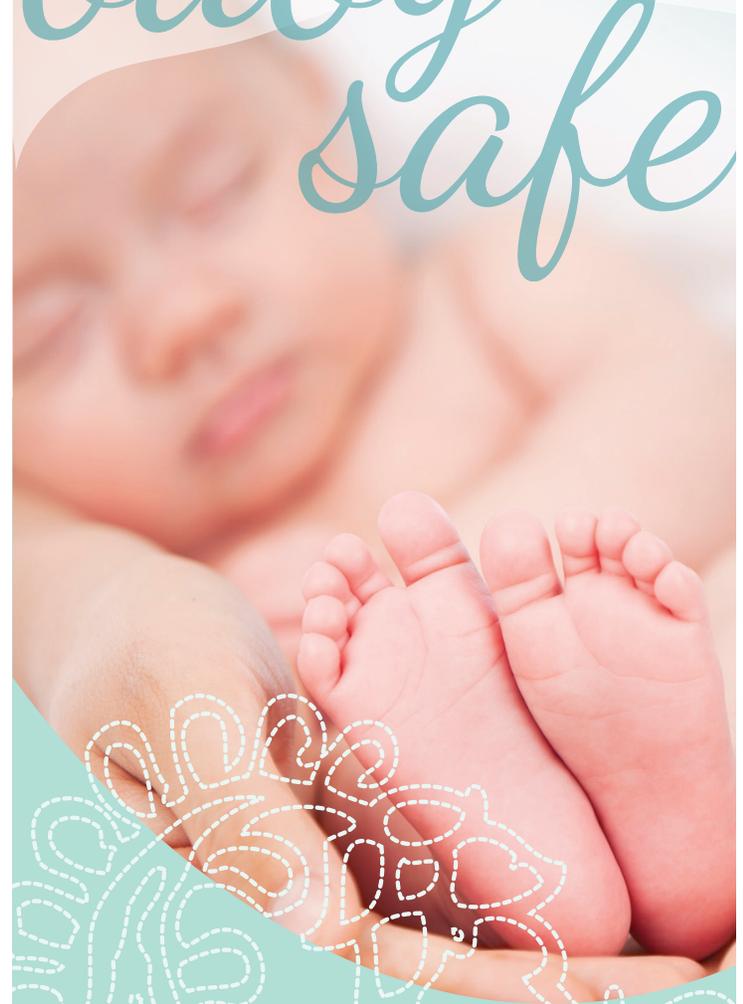
My name is Nathan, and I was born here in Alaska. This picture is of me just celebrating my first birthday, thanks in part to early newborn screening! When I was born everything seemed normal. At one week of age, my mom became concerned because I wasn't acting right. I was irritable, gagged

during feedings and went a long time between feedings. That was the day my doctor called to tell my mom that my metabolic screening test was abnormal and that I needed to be seen right away.

I was diagnosed with a condition called Maple Syrup Urine Disease (MSUD). My body lacks the enzymes to break down protein. When I take in too much protein, it makes me very sick and can affect my brain. I can't have any animal protein — that's a no-no! I can have fruits and vegetables. Because of the good care I received and the early screening, I have met all of the developmental milestones. I count myself as lucky. I can't imagine how life would be if I hadn't received early newborn screening!

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Keeping your
baby safe



Newborn metabolic screening

Testing your newborn for hidden disorders



Why?

To find rare, but serious birth disorders that cause brain damage or death if not treated early.



How?

A few drops of blood from your baby's heel are put onto a special test paper.



Who?

State law requires that every baby born in Alaska **must be tested**.

What?

Some of the disorders identified by metabolic screening:

- ▶ Congenital Hypothyroidism
- ▶ Phenylketonuria (PKU)
- ▶ Galactosemia
- ▶ Maple Syrup Urine Disease
- ▶ Biotinidase Deficiency
- ▶ Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia
- ▶ Hemoglobinopathies
- ▶ Amino Acid Disorders
- ▶ Fatty Acid/Organic Acid Disorders
- ▶ Cystic Fibrosis

Retesting is sometimes necessary for a number of reasons. It is important to act quickly so tests can be completed while the baby is still very young and treatment can be started as quickly as possible if needed.



When?

The first test must be done before your baby leaves the hospital or birthing facility. The second test should be done when your child is between 10-14 days of age. Take the second screening card to your baby's care provider on your visit.



Where?

The tests can be done at the hospital, or by a doctor, nurse, midwife or at the local health center.