Disorders Identified by Metabolic Screening

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

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 it is needed.

For more information, visit our website.
www.hss.state.ak.us/dhcs/metabolic/default.htm

Questions? Call 907-269-3400
Ask for the Metabolic Screening Program

Photo by: Jennifer Hughes, Eagle River Photo

My name is Nathan, and I was born here in Alaska. I just celebrated 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, I gagged during feedings, and went a long time between feedings. That was the day my doctor called to tell my mom that my newborn 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 most fruits and vegetables. Because of the good care I receive and the early screening I have met all of the developmental milestones doctors look for. I count myself as lucky. I can't imagine how life would be if I hadn't received early newborn screening!

STATE of ALASKA
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Keeping Your BABY SAFE

Metabolic Screening

Testing Your Newborn for Hidden Disorders

Why?

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

Who?

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

When?

The first test must be done before your baby leaves the hospital or birthing facility. The second test should be done before your child is 21 days of age. Take the 2nd screening card to your baby's care provider on your first visit.

How?

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

Where?

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