

## Results

Depending on the length of your hospital stay, some of the results from your baby's blood tests may be completed and available on their electronic chart. Other tests, such as those sent to the IWK Hospital take longer to complete and will be sent to your Doctor's office.

If you have any questions regarding your baby's blood tests and results, do not hesitate to discuss this with your healthcare provider.

Do not be alarmed if your doctor requests repeat blood tests done. This may be just to confirm results.

## Your Appointment

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Time: \_\_\_\_\_

## Take an active role in your health care and safety!

Listen to EVERYTHING your health care provider tells you and make sure they explain the procedure in a way that you understand.

# Provincial Laboratory Services

## Newborn Blood Collection



Laboratory Medicine  
Prince County Hospital  
Summerside, PE

Queen Elizabeth Hospital  
Charlottetown, PE

**Health PEI**  
One Island Health System

**Health PEI**  
One Island Health System

## Newborn Capillary Blood Collection

A newborn capillary blood collection is when a sample of blood is collected from an infant by a small pick on the outer heel.

## Why Does My Baby Need To Have a Blood Sample Taken?

All babies born on Prince Edward Island will have blood tests done at least 24 hours after birth, before they are discharged from hospital. From a single blood sample the laboratory can screen for thyroid disease and can detect several genetic disorders. By early screening, disorders can be treated before the symptoms appear. Doctors may order additional tests as required.



## How Can I Be Prepared For My Baby's Blood Test?

First of all, you must understand why your baby is having their blood taken. For best patient care, your doctor will order screening tests as well as other tests as needed. Families must understand that blood samples are taken to ensure their infant gets the best care possible and help prevent future health issues. A baby's most common reaction to a heel pick is crying. Because the heel must be held and gently squeezed, some babies react by kicking legs and waving arms. They may also become very red in color.

You may be present during the blood collection to sooth your infant, but it is OK if you leave the room at this time.

## How is the Heel Pick Done?

Lab staff will warm the baby's heel by securing a heel warmer and ensuring the baby is bundled and cosy. Warming the heel will help with the blood flow. The baby is placed in a safe environment (example: their own bassinet) and the blood is collected. Mothers are encouraged to stay with their infants to sooth and touch. It is part of the lab staff's training and responsibility to assess the situation and carry out the procedure safely.



## Quality of Blood Samples

It is a priority of the lab staff in your hospital to obtain samples of the appropriate quantity and quality. Proper positioning of baby and blood collector will help prevent your baby from having repeat collection due to poor sample quality.