



E-NEWS

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New Screenings added for Newborns prior to Discharge

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Did you know that the state of Georgia has added new screenings for newborns that must occur prior to the baby being discharged from the hospital? The additions include: screening for SCID (Severe Combined Immunodeficiency), hearing screening, and Critical Congenital Heart Disease Screening (CCHD).

The SCID has been added to the current list of conditions that are screened for by a blood sample prior to discharge (Newborn screening program). The hearing screening has been recommended for many years but is now a requirement for all birthing facilities.

Did you know that a two- to three-minute screening is all it takes to ensure that newborns in your hospital won't suffer from a missed diagnosis of CCHD? Congenital heart disease is the most common birth defect and accounts for almost 40% of deaths from congenital anomalies. Three out of every 1,000 babies are born with a severe form of CCHD -- and it is estimated that 2,000 will have a missed diagnosis or die. Nurses can help prevent complications from missing the diagnosis of CCHD by spending only a few minutes to screen newborns using pulse oximetry.

The condition affects about 40,000 babies annually in the United States. A group of the seven most severe defects -[critical congenital heart disease](#)- can affect the interior walls of the heart, important veins and arteries and the cardiac valves. This group of heart defects are called ductal dependent which means that when the ductus arteriosus, and or foramen ovale closes off the baby is at high risk of morbidity or even mortality if this occurs after the baby has gone home.

The goal of the pulse oximetry screening is to identify lower than normal O2 saturation in a healthy- appearing infants prior to discharge.
Georgia recommendations for CCHD screening:

1. All birthing centers and hospitals shall be equipped to conduct a CCHD screening test on newborn babies in accordance with the Georgia Newborn Screening Program Policy and Procedure manual.
2. When a live birth occurs in any hospital, birthing center or in a facility that is equipped to conduct a CCHD screening test the test shall be conducted prior to the baby's discharge in accordance with the Georgia Newborn Screening Policy and Procedure manual, Newborns who have already received an echocardiogram for any reason may be excluded from CCHD screening.

3. If the baby is admitted into a NICU or SCN, the baby shall have the CCHD screening test prior to discharge or once the baby is weaned from supplemental oxygen. Newborns who have already received an echocardiogram for any reason may be excluded from the CCHD screening.
4. The person administering the test shall ensure that the CCHD screening test is conducted in accordance with the Georgia Newborn Screening Program Policy and Procedure manual.
5. The results of the test shall be included in the baby's clinical record, reported to the Department, and given to the parents or legal guardians, in accordance with the Georgia Newborn Screening Policy & Procedure manual.

Georgia. 511-5-5-.05 Authority; O.C.G.A. 31-2A-6,31-12-5 eff. June 2, 2014. "Critical Congenital Heart Disease Screening".
Kemper, A. R., Mahle, W. T., Martin, G. R., Cooley, W. C., Kumer, P., Morrow, W. R., . . . Howell, R. R. (2011). Strategies for implementing screening for critical congenital heart disease, *Pediatrics*, 128, e1259-1267. doi: 10.1542/peds.2011-2317
Circulation. 2012: published online before print April 30, 2012, 10.1161/CIR.0b013e3182579f25.

Free Clinical Webinars!

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September 23-25, 2014

Plan to join us at the King and Prince Resort next year for GPA's 29th Annual Conference, September 23-25, 2015. Your GPA board members are already working hard on preparations, so please contact them if you have comments or suggestions for topics and/or speakers. Set within a beautiful seaside landscape, the Annual Conference is a wonderful opportunity for learning, networking, food, and fun-and we hope to see you there next year!

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