

International Neonatal Screening Day 2022 - Tuesday 28 June

# Celebrating over 50 years of newborn screening



## Did you know...

**NHS newborn screening has been a truly revolutionary milestone in public health.**

### Why

NHS newborn screening programmes are designed to detect serious conditions such as sickle cell disease, cystic fibrosis and phenylketonuria (PKU) to name a few. These conditions are rare, but if left undiagnosed and untreated they can cause irreversible damage.

### How

By using three screening tests described below to identify those babies who might have a health problem and therefore require further diagnostic assessment. The screening tests are quick and simple and do not harm the baby in any way.

If necessary, treatment can be started early to prevent severe disability or even death.

### When

Newborn babies are usually offered the screen in the first few days of life but some can be done up to 12 weeks of age.

## The three screening tests

### Newborn physical examination

Every baby is offered a thorough physical examination soon after birth to check their eyes, heart, hips and, in boys, testicles.

This is to identify babies who may have conditions that need further testing or treatment.

### Newborn hearing screening

This test helps to identify any child with moderate to profound hearing loss as early as possible.

Since the start of the programme **11 million hearing screenings** have taken place in the UK. **22,000 babies have** also been diagnosed with hearing loss and received early support.

### Newborn blood spot (heel prick) test

This test includes drawing a small sample of blood from the heel of the foot to check for nine significant health problems that are very uncommon.

Approximately **100 screen positives** are discovered each year at MFT, which is **one out of every 500** babies screened across our hospitals.

Search online **NHS newborn screening** to learn more or **scan the QR code** to go straight to the web page

