

Carnitine uptake deficiency (CUD)

What is the Wisconsin Newborn Screen?

All babies in Wisconsin have a test called the Newborn Screen (NBS) in their first 24 hours of life. A blood sample is taken from baby's heel for this test. This test looks for rare medical conditions that may not be caught or show up in your baby right away.

Newborn screening gets babies the help they need by:

- Finding out they have a condition before they have any medical problems
- Allowing treatment to be started right away
- Preventing medical emergencies

What was my baby's NBS result?

Your baby's NBS has screened positive with a high level of a marker called "CO acylcarnitine." This means your baby may have a condition called carnitine uptake deficiency (CUD), also known as Primary Carnitine Deficiency. Sometimes we identify that mom is the one who has CUD and this is what causes her baby's abnormal newborn screen, but baby is not the one with the condition.

This test is a screening test. We will need more information to find out if he or she has this diagnosis.

What is CUD and why is it important?

CUD affects how fat is used in the body to make energy. When a healthy person gets sick or goes without eating for a long time ("fasting"), the body uses stored fat for energy. People with CUD cannot use stored fat. When they get sick or fast, they can have low blood sugar and can very sick very quickly.

Without treatment, babies with CUD can develop dangerous low blood sugars or issues with the heart.

What are the next steps?

Feed your baby every three hours, even overnight.

The most important thing you can do while waiting for test results is to make sure your baby eats every three hours, even overnight, to prevent low blood sugars. Do this until your doctor tells you it is safe to stop.

Tests and Doctor's Visits

This will help us know if your baby has CUD or not. Your baby's health care provider will order:

- An urgent visit to the primary care clinic and/or emergency department
- Blood and urine (pee) tests
- Referral to the Genetics Clinic is possible

What if I have questions or concerns?

Contact your primary care provider right away: If your baby is not eating well, gets sick, or you have questions or concerns about how he or she is doing.

Go to the emergency room right away: If your baby is not eating, throwing up, very sleepy and not waking up, has a seizure, or has other symptoms you are worried about.

Call the Children's Wisconsin Genetics Center: If you have questions about Newborn Screen, CUD, or your baby's test results.

- Call 414-266-3347, option 3
- Leave a message and a nurse or genetic counselor from the Newborn Screen program will call back.
- Office is open Monday-Friday, 8 AM-4PM

Scan the QR codes below for links to more information

Medline Plus
Genetics:



NewbornScreening.Info:



INFORM
Network:

