

# Alberta Newborn Screening Program

## Physician FAQs

September 2026

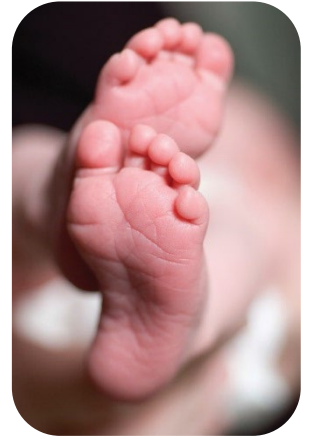
### What is the Alberta Newborn Screening Program?

The Alberta Newborn Screening Program (ANSP) is a provincial, family-centred population-based screening program that screens for 22 treatable conditions, between 24 and 72 hours after birth. It is provided by Primary Care Alberta (PCA) in partnership with Primary and Preventative Health Services and care providers across the screening pathway.

### Why is newborn blood spot screening important?

Early detection and treatment of screened conditions can significantly improve health outcomes and prevent lifelong complications. The Alberta Newborn Screening Program:

- works toward minimizing lifelong health problems and improving survival of Alberta infants through early diagnosis and treatment of screened conditions;
- ensures that all babies born in Alberta receive timely access to effective newborn blood spot screening and have an initial screen reported on or before the 10th day of age; and
- informs parents, health professionals and the public about newborn blood spot screening.



### How can I support my patients?

Physicians are important partners in blood spot screening. You can support your patients by:

- providing parents with information about the importance of newborn screening during prenatal visits;
- reviewing screening results with the family;
- if participating in sample collection, collecting the sample and completing the blood spot card in accordance with the [Newborn Blood Spot Screening Sample Collection procedure](#); and
- if completing a physician refusal for clinical reasons, ensuring the blood spot card is completed in accordance with the [Newborn Blood Spot Screening Sample Collection procedure](#).

Screening does not detect all cases. Use clinical judgement if an infant presents with symptoms.

### How am I notified of results?

All results are available in Connect Care, under the 'Lab' section and in Netcare, under the 'Chemistry' section.

- Physicians are notified (via phone and fax) and receive additional information from the Alberta Newborn Screening Laboratory and/or specialty clinic when an infant's results are abnormal.
- In the case of results indicating a [sickle cell trait](#), physicians are notified (via fax) and receive additional information (also available [online](#)) from the Alberta Newborn Screening Laboratory.
- Public health nursing will also notify physicians if a parent refuses blood spot screening, does not present or cannot be located for a sample collection. Ensure you follow-up with these families on their next visit.

### Where do I find more information?

For the most up-to-date information on newborn blood spot screening visit

[www.primarycarealberta.ca/newbornscreening](http://www.primarycarealberta.ca/newbornscreening)

- Select Alberta Newborn Screening Program (ANSP)
- Click 'Information for healthcare providers' for resources to support conversations with parents about results, as well as specimen collection resources, including policies, procedures, tools, staff education materials, and ordering information.
- Click 'Information for parents' for parent resources and [parent condition information sheets](#).



### Who should I contact if I have questions?

Contact us at

[newbornscreening@primarycarealberta.ca](mailto:newbornscreening@primarycarealberta.ca)

**For non-urgent** questions about screened conditions, please contact the Genetic Counsellors at [NBSGeneticCounsellors@albertaprecisionlabs.ca](mailto:NBSGeneticCounsellors@albertaprecisionlabs.ca)

**For urgent** inquiries, please contact the Genetic Counsellors by phone at 780-407-7907