

# Pregnancy and neonates: newborn blood spot test communication within 6 weeks of birth

NICE indicator

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## Indicator

The proportion of babies with a 'not suspected' result for all the conditions tested for by newborn blood spot testing who have a results letter sent to their parents directly from the child health information service (CHIS) within 6 weeks of birth.

## Indicator type

Network / system level indicator.

The indicator would be appropriate to understand and report on the performance of networks or systems of providers.

This document does not represent formal NICE guidance. For a full list of NICE indicators, see our [menu of indicators](#).

To find out how to use indicators and how we develop them, see our [NICE indicator process guide](#).

## Rationale

The newborn blood spot (NBS) screening programme enables early identification, referral and treatment of babies with 9 rare but serious conditions. Conveying 'not suspected' NBS screening results in a timely manner to parents will minimise anxiety.

## Source guidance

[Postnatal care. NICE guideline NG194](#) (2021), recommendation 1.3.8

## Specification

**Numerator:** The number of babies in the denominator who have a results letter sent to their parents directly from the CHIS within 6 weeks of birth.

**Denominator:** The number of babies with a 'not suspected' result for all the conditions tested for by newborn blood spot testing recorded on CHISS within 6 weeks of birth.

**Calculation:** Numerator divided by the denominator, multiplied by 100.

**Exclusions:** Babies who:

- have a condition suspected or carrier result for any of the conditions tested for
- have a status code that denotes a declined condition, a repeat required or screening incomplete
- are covered by a CHIS that does not send results letters directly to parents (for example the results are communicated by health visitors instead).

Data source: [NHS Newborn blood spot screening programme](#).

Minimum population: The indicator would be appropriate to understand and report on the performance of networks or systems of providers.

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