



NEWBORN THYROID FUNCTION TESTS

It is important for your baby's health that any problems with your baby's thyroid gland are detected early.

All newborn babies have their thyroid function checked as part of the Newborn Screening Test (the NST). For most babies this one blood test is enough.

We recommend extra blood tests for babies if their mothers have (or have had) thyroid conditions such as Hashimoto's thyroiditis, congenital hypothyroidism and Grave's disease.

When does the blood test need to be done?

Depending on your thyroid condition, extra blood tests may be taken with the NST around 48 hours of age and/or at 10–14 days after your baby's birth.

For the day 10–14 test, the neonatal (baby) doctor on the post natal ward will give you a request form to take with your baby to a pathology service. The suggested dates for the test will be on the form. If this date is a weekend or public holiday it is okay to wait until the next week day.

Where do I go to get the blood test?

The Royal Women's Hospital outpatient pathology department can do the test.

They are on level one and are open Monday–Thursday: 8:30am–5:20pm and Friday: 8:30am–2:20pm.

There may be a pathology service closer to your home that can do the blood test. If you think that would suit you better or are unsure where to go, ask your baby's doctor before you leave the hospital.

How do I find out the results?

A neonatal doctor from the Women's will call you, usually within a week of the test, to tell you the results and if anything else needs to be done.

If you misplace the request form, are unsure or unable to get the tests performed, or no one contacts you with the results please phone our newborn follow-up clinic coordinator on (03) 8345 2240.

It is important your contact details are accurate. Please check with your midwife before discharge that your address and phone number are correct. If your details change after you go home please contact health records information on (03) 8345 2600 to update your details.