

Newborn Pulse Oximetry Screening for Critical Congenital Heart Disease

All newborns should receive pulse oximetry screening unless they meet exception criteria.

See the *NBS Exceptions Pulse Oximetry Guide* for more information.

Screening should be performed between 24 to 48 hours (closer to 24 hours is best) after birth by:

- Placing pulse oximeter on right hand and either foot at the same time.

Use the chart below to find the results and next steps:

- Locate right hand oxygen saturation percentage on the left side.
- Move your finger across until you find the foot oxygen saturation percentage.
- The color will indicate the result.

Oxygen Saturation Percentage (O₂ Sats; %)

Right Hand	Either Foot											
100	100	99	98	97	96	95	94	93	92	91	90	89 or lower
99	100	99	98	97	96	95	94	93	92	91	90	89 or lower
98	100	99	98	97	96	95	94	93	92	91	90	89 or lower
97	100	99	98	97	96	95	94	93	92	91	90	89 or lower
96	100	99	98	97	96	95	94	93	92	91	90	89 or lower
95	100	99	98	97	96	95	94	93	92	91	90	89 or lower
94	100	99	98	97	96	95	94	93	92	91	90	89 or lower
93	100	99	98	97	96	95	94	93	92	91	90	89 or lower
92	100	99	98	97	96	95	94	93	92	91	90	89 or lower
91	100	99	98	97	96	95	94	93	92	91	90	89 or lower
90	100	99	98	97	96	95	94	93	92	91	90	89 or lower
89 or lower	100	99	98	97	96	95	94	93	92	91	90	89 or lower

<p>If initial OR second screen saturations are in the green zone, then no additional screening required.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document oxygen saturation percentages on the newborn screening card. • Newborn pulse oximetry screening is complete.
<p>If INITIAL screen saturations are in the yellow zone, then complete ONE re-screen.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document oxygen saturation percentages on the newborn screening card. • Perform pulse oximetry screen a second time, 1 hour after the initial screen was performed.
<p>If SECOND screen saturations are in the yellow zone, then the newborn has failed pulse oximetry screening.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practice change: Do not perform a third screen. • Document echocardiogram results on the pink copy of the newborn screening card to not delay sending the white copy/filter paper to the newborn screening lab. • Practice change: Initiate hospital clinical workup, at minimum an echocardiogram is to be completed.
<p>If initial OR second screen saturations are in the red zone, then the newborn has failed pulse oximetry screening.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not perform any additional screening • Practice change: Initiate hospital clinical workup, at minimum an echocardiogram is to be completed. • Document echocardiogram results on the pink copy of the newborn screening card to not delay sending the white copy/filter paper to the newborn screening lab.