



Early Check



Information for Health Care Providers

Providers do not need to recruit patients for Early Check. But in case you get questions from pregnant women or new parents, we want you to be aware of the study.



How you can help

If pregnant women or new parents seek your guidance about Early Check, please refer them to the Early Check homepage, www.earlycheck.org.

Early Check is a statewide, voluntary study that aims to support the health of newborns and families in North Carolina. Our goal is to learn about rare health conditions and look for better treatments to help babies who have these conditions.

What health care providers need to know about Early Check

- Early Check will screen newborns for fragile X syndrome (FXS) and spinal muscular atrophy (SMA). Other conditions may be added in the future.
- The screening is done using the dried blood spot already collected for traditional newborn screening.
- The screening is free and does not require insurance.
- Pregnant women in their second or third trimester who plan to give birth in North Carolina are eligible. Parents of newborns are also eligible.
- The consent process occurs entirely through the Early Check secure online permissions portal and is completely voluntary on the part of the parents. Consent does not occur in the hospital or in any other in-person settings.
- Parents who do not enroll prenatally will receive an invitation letter from the North Carolina Division of Public Health postnatally.
- In the rare case of a positive screen result, an Early Check genetic counselor will call the family. Following confirmation of a diagnosis, the genetic counselor will provide information, counseling, and recommendations for medical care.
- The genetic counselor will report the screening results to the pediatrician if the family consents to the release of the results, or if we cannot reach the family directly.

Questions about Early Check?

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