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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