March 4, 2019

Dear {name here},

We are sending you this letter because you recently had a baby in North Carolina. Congratulations!

We are inviting you to join a research study called Early Check. All new parents in North Carolina are being invited. **You can sign up for Early Check until your baby is 4 weeks old.**

The goal of Early Check is to test babies for rare health problems and look for better treatments. Your participation in Early Check is important in helping the study achieve this goal. To do this, **Early Check will provide extra, free tests for your baby beyond those that are part of regular newborn screening.** You can learn more about Early Check and the two health problems screened by Early Check. Visit [portal.EarlyCheck.org](http://portal.EarlyCheck.org).

Early Check uses the same blood sample from the baby’s heel already taken in the hospital for regular newborn screening. Newborn screening is done by the North Carolina State Laboratory of Public Health (NCSLPH) for all babies born in the state. NCSLPH has completed newborn screening for your baby or will soon. The NCSLPH is working with the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Wake Forest School of Medicine, Duke University, and RTI International to make the Early Check study possible.

- The Early Check study is different from regular newborn screening done by NCSLPH. Early Check tests for other health problems not included in regular newborn screening.
- If you join the study, you agree to let Early Check do other tests on your baby’s blood sample that was already taken in the hospital. Early Check will only use your baby’s blood sample if you agree. It is your choice.
- In the very rare event that your baby tests positive for an Early Check condition and has also screened positive for a regular newborn screening condition, Early Check staff will work with NCSLPH to notify you.

If you decide not to join Early Check, your baby will still have regular newborn screening and follow up. Your baby’s doctor will still receive the results of regular newborn screening. We know that new parents are busy enjoying their newborns. Signing up for Early Check is easy. The enclosed flyer provides more details. **To learn more and to sign up, visit portal.EarlyCheck.org. If you have questions, please call 866-881-2715.**

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Cuervo Tilson, MD, MPH
State Health Director, Chief Medical Officer

For more information about newborn screening in North Carolina, please visit [http://slph.ncpublichealth.com/newborn/](http://slph.ncpublichealth.com/newborn/)