Sláinte Leanaí Éireann
Children's Health Ireland

mychild.ie

National Newborn Bloodspot Screening Programme

# Babies with normal test results for SCID - information for parents

Your baby's heel prick test showed that they were at risk of having a condition called severe combined immunodeficiency (SCID).

Because of this, your baby had a specialist blood test to find out whether they have SCID.

## What did the blood test show?

The results of the blood test were normal and showed that your baby **does not** have SCID.

This is very good news.

## Why did the screening test show my baby was 'at risk of SCID' when they do not have it?

This was a false positive screening result. This is when the screening test suggests that your baby is at increased risk of a condition, but further testing shows that they **do not** have the condition.

False positives happen in all screening programmes. They happen because screening tests are not perfect.

That is why all babies who have a positive screening test need to have further tests. This is to find out whether they have the condition.

Your baby had a false positive screening result. Further testing has shown that they do not have SCID.

For more information on false positives see www2.hse.ie/conditions/heel-prick-screening/results/

## What happens next?

Your baby does not need any further tests.

You were advised to take extra care to reduce the risk of infection while waiting for your baby's test results. This included keeping your baby at home and away from any sick family members or friends.

Now that we have the test result, we know that your baby **does not** have SCID. Your baby is not at higher risk of infection compared to any other baby.

This means that you can stop taking extra precautions. Your baby can continue with normal activities and feeding.

For all babies, we recommend you visit the HSE's mychild.ie for advice on caring for your child as they grow.

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## I still have questions, who can I ask?

A screen positive result can be very worrying for parents.

Even though further blood tests have shown that your baby **does not** have SCID, you may still have some questions or concerns.

A member of the Paediatric Immunology team in CHI at Crumlin will contact you in the coming days. They will discuss your baby's test results and answer any questions you may have.

As with any healthy child, seek advice from your GP or public health nurse if:

- your baby becomes unwell, or
- you have any concerns about your baby's feeding or development.

For more information on your baby's health and development and supports for parents, please visit the HSE's mychild.ie



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