Sláinte Leanaí Éireann
CHI
Children's Health Ireland

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National Newborn Bloodspot Screening Programme

# Information for parents of babies with SMA

Your baby's heel prick test showed that they were at risk of having a condition called spinal muscular atrophy (SMA).

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

## What did the blood test show?

The blood test shows that your baby **does** have SMA.

We know this will be very worrying for you, but there is excellent help available for you and your baby.

## What is SMA?

SMA is a rare inherited (genetic) condition. There are different types of SMA.

Some babies born with SMA can develop severe muscle weakness. Their body does not make enough survival motor neuron (SMN) protein. SMN is a protein you need for your spine and muscles to work properly.

## Can SMA be treated?

Yes. SMA can be treated. There are very good treatments available.

The paediatric neurologist will discuss the treatment options with you and expected outcomes for your baby.

Treatment should start as soon as possible. We know that babies with SMA do much better if treated early.

## What happens next?

The paediatric neurology team in Children's Health Ireland (CHI) at Temple Street in Dublin will provide expert care for your baby.