

Pointers For Parents & Expectant Parents

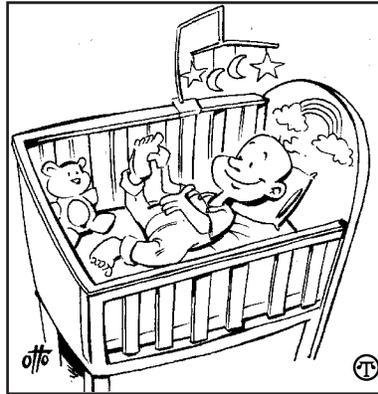
Simple, New Test Offers More Reliable Health Screening For Newborns

(NAPSA)—Baby feet must be the most adorable things on earth. Even more than a source for tickling, however, your baby's foot actually offers a precious gift—an invaluable glimpse into your baby's health future.

You may have heard about the simple heel-stick test newborns receive before they go home from the hospital. This is a valuable screening that helps doctors diagnose inherited disorders (such as PKU) in newborns that require special care. But not all screening is the same.

If you live in Colorado your new baby will receive the routine heel-stick screening for cystic fibrosis (CF) and five other disorders in the first few days of life. Babies born in California, New Jersey, or 45 other states, however, will not be screened for CF, but may be screened for other disorders not included in Colorado's program.

States all agree it's important to screen babies within 48 hours of birth for hidden disorders that may require immediate treatment to save the baby from brain damage or other serious problems. Unfortunately, standardized, nationwide screening does not exist and the result is that babies do not receive comprehensive screening for *all* detectable disorders in any state. Most state newborn screening pro-



Expanded newborn screening can save lives.

grams only screen for four to six disorders, however, screening for nearly 40 disorders is possible using new advancements in newborn screening.

So what can you do to make sure your baby receives all the screening that is available? Order expanded newborn screening, which is in addition to your state's screening program. When your baby receives the routine heel-stick for the state screening, a few drops of blood can be placed on a separate screening card. You mail the card to the screening laboratory and results will be reported to your baby's doctor.

For more information, call Cbr NewScreen at 1-800-747-3319 or visit www.newscreentest.com.