

Supporting newborn screening

As primary care providers, we can have a relatively simple conversation with expectant parents that can have a lifelong impact on families: it's about newborn screening.

This conversation, typically part of prenatal visits, helps parents-to-be understand the purpose and benefits of newborn screening, and opens up a space for clarifying misconceptions. Your patients will leave your office able to make informed decisions about getting screening done — without the pressure of deciding soon after their baby's birth.

Declining participation

Talking about screening is doubly important right now because Primary Care Alberta (PCA) has noted an increase in parents deciding not to participate in the Alberta Newborn Screening Program. And sadly, this decline in participation can lead to preventable neonatal deaths.

The refusals could be due to misinformation, concerns about pain and privacy, or misunderstandings of the test's purpose. With so many primary care providers having earned their patients' trust over years of consistent care, you can help expectant parents navigate these issues and make an informed decision.

We encourage you to review the following materials and use them to guide conversations with parents:

- [Alberta Newborn Screening Program \(ANSP\) | Alberta Health Services](#)

Thank you once again for your enduring commitment to the Albertans who benefit every day from your expertise and compassion.

Kind regards,

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