



# Iowa Newborn Screening Program (INSP)

## Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) Fact Sheet for Families

### Newborn screening

A short time after your baby's birth, a newborn screen was performed to look for certain medical conditions. This test involved a small sample of blood taken from your baby's heel. The goal of newborn screening is to identify conditions which, if caught early, can be treated to improve the health of babies.

### Your baby's results and what it means

One condition included in the newborn screening panel is called Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA). The newborn screen result showed it is possible your baby has SMA. A newborn screen result does not prove your baby has SMA. Your baby will need to be examined as soon as possible by a doctor who specializes in caring for children with muscle weakness. This doctor will do more testing to find out if your baby has SMA.

### What is SMA?

SMA is a condition that causes nerve cells in the spinal cord to die off over time. This loss of spinal cord nerve cells causes muscle weakness that worsens and can be severe. Treatment can slow the loss of nerve cells and improve strength.

### Additional information

Please contact the newborn screening program if you have any questions or concerns about your child's newborn screening result 319-384-5097 or toll free at 1-866-890-5965. You may also reach us by email at [iowanewbornscreening@uiowa.edu](mailto:iowanewbornscreening@uiowa.edu)

### **For additional information about SMA, please visit the following website:**

Genetics Home Reference: <https://ghr.nlm.nih.gov/condition/spinal-muscular-atrophy>

Cure SMA: <https://www.curesma.org/newborn-screening-for-sma/>

Muscular Dystrophy Association: <https://www.mda.org/disease/spinal-muscular-atrophy>

For your convenience, please scan the QR codes:



Genetics Home Reference



Cure SMA



Muscular Dystrophy Association

The Iowa Newborn Screening Program is administered by the Iowa Department of Public Health through the Center for Congenital and Inherited Disorders, in collaboration with the State Hygienic Laboratory at the University of Iowa, and the University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital.