

Information for patients and carers

Newborn Infant Physical Examination (NIPE) Outcomes

Heart Referral

A decorative graphic at the bottom of the page consisting of three overlapping, wavy bands of blue. The top band is a light blue, the middle is a medium blue, and the bottom is a dark blue.

Why is the heart checked during the examination (NIPE)?

The healthcare professional will check your baby's heart. This is done by observing your baby, feeling your baby's pulses, and listening to their heart with a stethoscope. Sometimes heart murmurs are picked up.

A heart murmur is caused by a disturbed blood flow through the heart resulting in the heartbeat having an extra or unusual sound.

Heart murmurs are common in babies. The heart is normal in almost all cases where a murmur is heard. But about 8 in 1,000 babies have congenital heart disease that needs treatment.

What happens after the NIPE examination?

If a heart murmur is heard during the examination, a senior paediatrician with expertise in cardiology in the early neonatal period will review your baby.

If you have any concerns, you can discuss them with your midwife or the healthcare professional who does the examination.

[Download a leaflet about screening tests for you and your baby from GOV.UK](#)

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/60f6a227e90e0764c5938398/Screening_tests_for_you_and_your_baby_easy_guide_NIPE_section_June_2020.pdf

Contact details

Should you require further advice or information please telephone:

The Antenatal and Newborn Screening Team on **01772 524693**

Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm.

Sources of further information

www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk

www.nhs.uk

www.accessable.co.uk

www.patient.co.uk

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www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/patient-information-leaflets

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If you want to stop smoking, you can also contact Smokefree Lancashire on Freephone **08081962638**

Please ask a member of staff if you would like help in understanding this information.

This information can be made available in large print, audio, Braille and in other languages.

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Division: Women and Children

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