

Congratulations on your growing family! We know that welcoming your baby into the world is one of life's most special moments. Our entire team- from doctors and nurses to lactation consultants and support staff- is dedicated to providing you and your newborn with the highest level of care, safety, and comfort.

At ThedaCare, we prioritize good health right from the beginning! We know you want the best start for your new baby. That's why we have special steps and checks — called **Standards of Care** — that every newborn receives. These tests and shots are simple ways to find hidden problems early or prevent them altogether, giving your baby a strong and safe start to life.

Medications:

Care Item	What It Is	Why Your Baby Needs It
Vitamin K Shot	A single shot given to the thigh muscle.	Babies are born with very little Vitamin K, which is necessary for their blood to clot (stop bleeding) properly. Bacteria in our gut will make Vitamin K for our body. It takes several months for these gut bacteria to develop. The small amounts of Vitamin K in breastmilk and formula are not enough. Until then, babies are at risk for bleeding. The Vitamin K shot prevents rare but serious bleeding in the brain or body that can cause disability or death.
Erythromycin Eye Ointment	An antibiotic ointment placed in the baby's eyes.	This ointment protects the baby's eyes from certain infections that can cause blindness, even if the mother has no symptoms.
Hepatitis B (Hep B) Shot	The first dose of a vaccine series.	This vaccine protects your baby from the Hepatitis B virus, which attacks the liver and can lead to lifelong infection and liver cancer. It is usually given within the first 24 hours of birth. Your baby will get more doses later.

Newborn Screening Tests:

Screening Item	What It Is	Why Your Baby Needs It
Newborn Lab Screening (Heel Stick)	A few drops of blood are taken from the baby's heel.	This screens for dozens of rare but serious conditions (like problems with the baby's metabolism or hormones). Finding these early means doctors can start treatment, if available, right away.
Hearing Screen	A small earpiece is placed around the baby's ear while they sleep or rest quietly. It plays soft sounds.	This checks to make sure the baby can hear well. Finding hearing loss early is critical for the baby's speech and language development.
Critical Congenital Heart Disease (CCHD) Screen	A small sensor called a pulse oximeter wraps around your baby's hand and foot to measure oxygen levels in the blood.	Some heart defects do not show clear signs right away. This test helps find some of those hidden problems early, so your baby can get the care they need right away.
Jaundice (Bilirubin level)	A handheld light meter is used on the baby's skin or a small amount of blood is taken from their heel to check your baby's bilirubin level	We check your baby's bilirubin level because high levels of bilirubin can be harmful to the baby's brain if not treated.
Group B Strep (GBS) Infection Screening	If you tested positive for the GBS bacteria, during your labor you will be treated with antibiotics to prevent infection to your baby.	We will monitor your baby more closely for any signs of infection for 1-2 days.

For questions about any of the above Standards of Care, your healthcare team is here to answer them.

