

The following is a brief description of the procedures routinely performed on newborn babies in British Columbia. Most parents choose to have these procedures performed; however you have the right to decline any or all of these procedures as you wish.

What is it?	What is it for?	When is it done?	Any drawbacks?
Eye Prophylaxis Erythromycin (antibiotic) ointment into baby's eyes	Prevents eye infections caused by the presence of chlamydia and gonorrhea in the birth canal, which can lead to blindness if left untreated	Within the 1 st hour after birth	Blurs baby's vision, can be done unnecessarily (such as when both parents are negative for gonorrhea), possibility of allergic reaction
Vitamin K Injection into baby's thigh	Prevents newborn hemorrhagic disease (potentially fatal blood clotting disorder)	Within 1 st 6 hours after birth	Pain; rare risk of infection at needle site
Newborn Screening (Often referred to as PKU test) Blood sample from baby's heel	Tests for metabolic disorders that can cause lifetime mental disability if not identified and treated soon. Presently, BC tests for nineteen different disorders, including: PKU disease (inability to digest an amino acid in milk), Galactosemia (inability to digest milk sugar), Hypothyroidism (underactive or lack of a thyroid gland), MCAD, LCHAD and glutaric acidemia type 1, cystic fibrosis and sickle cell disease.	After 24 hours of age	Pain; slight risk of infection at site of blood sample

Unlike the three procedures mentioned above, circumcision is not routine. If you choose to circumcise your son, you will need to arrange this privately.