

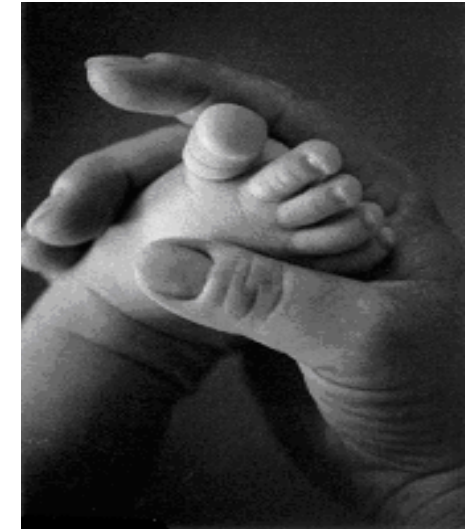
For more information, please see:  
<http://nj.gov/health/fhs/nbs/index.shtml>

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**DISCLAIMER:**

THIS INFORMATION DOES NOT PROVIDE  
MEDICAL ADVICE.

After reading this information sheet, you are encouraged to review the information carefully with your doctor or other healthcare provider. The content is not intended to be a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis or treatment. NEVER DISREGARD PROFESSIONAL MEDICAL ADVICE OR DELAY IN SEEKING IT BECAUSE OF SOMETHING YOU HAVE READ ON THIS INFORMATION SHEET.



## Organic Acidemias

**Important Information  
For Parents**



## The Organic Acidemias

**MMA** (Methylmalonic Acidemia)

**PROP** (Propionic Acidemia)

**IVA** (Isovaleric Acidemia)

**GA I** (Glutaric Aciduria Type I)

**HMG** (3-Hydroxy-3-Methylglutaryl-CoA Lyase Deficiency)

**3MCC** (3-Methylcrotonyl-CoA Carboxylase Deficiency)

### What is an Organic Acidemia?

The Organic Acidemias are a group of disorders caused by the buildup of organic acids in the body. The newborn is usually well at birth and for the first few days of life. But as the organic acids build up, the baby may have vomiting, low blood sugar, brain damage and even death. Treatment may include a special diet and medications.

### What causes an Organic Acidemia?

It is inherited from both parents. It cannot be "caught" like a cold and cannot be "given" to another child.

### How is an Organic Acidemia found?

Shortly after birth, several drops of blood are taken from your baby's heel. The dried blood sample is sent to the State Department of Health and Senior Services' Newborn Screening Laboratory, where it is tested for Organic Acidemias and for several other conditions. These tests are all part of the State's Newborn Screening Program. If there is any abnormality, the baby's doctor and parents are notified.

### What does the lab look for?

The lab tests the baby's blood for abnormal substances.

Does an abnormal screening test mean that my baby has an Organic Acidemia?

Screening tests always need to be confirmed by additional testing and medical evaluation.

IF YOU ARE ASKED TO HAVE YOUR BABY RE-TESTED, ACT QUICKLY AND FOLLOW YOUR DOCTOR'S ADVICE

### What will my baby's doctor do?

Your baby's doctor will work with a metabolic/genetic specialist. In addition to other things they may do the following:

- Get a complete history and do a physical exam
- Check for symptoms such as vomiting, poor feeding, abnormal muscle strength (floppiness), abnormal sleepiness and/or seizures
- Obtain other blood and/or urine tests to confirm the screening results and to help to make a diagnosis.

### How is an Organic Acidemia treated?

Prompt treatment is necessary to avoid the buildup of harmful substances. Treatment should be provided by a health care professional who has special expertise caring for individuals with Organic Acidemias. The doctor will decide if your baby should be started on a special formula and whether your baby needs medication. Your baby may need frequent monitoring.

Your baby's doctor is the best source of information regarding your baby's health. If you have any questions about the test results or about Organic Acidemias contact your baby's doctor for more information.