

# *Children's Healthcare Is a Legal Duty, Inc.*

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## **Criteria for Requiring Newborn Screening**

CHILD believes that screening of newborns should be required only when it meets the following conditions:

1. The disease or disorder has significant mortality and morbidity among children when not diagnosed presymptomatically.
2. The morbidity causes severe harm to a child.
3. The disease or disorder is not consistently identified clinically in the neonatal period.
4. The prevalence of the disease or disorder among children is significant.
5. The baby can benefit from pre-symptomatic treatment.
6. The screening method is simple, minimally invasive, and carries no reasonable risk of physical harm.
7. The screening method is sensitive and specific.
8. The purpose of the screening is explained to the parents, and resources for treatment and counseling are available.
9. A baby's test results will be disclosed only to parents and the baby's physician unless parents authorize other uses for them.

These criteria are similar to those in the Joint Report by the Association of Public Health Laboratories and Council of Regional Genetic Networks, "Recommendations and standardization of neonatal screening," March, 1999.