

# KENTUCKY NEWBORN SCREENING PROGRAM

## PARENT TEACHING SHEET

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# Severe Combined Immunodeficiency (SCID)

### CAUSE

SCID is an inherited condition in which the body is unable to fight off serious and life-threatening infections. Your body's immune system is made up of different parts that work together to keep the body from getting sick. In a baby with SCID, certain parts of the immune system do not work properly. This puts the baby at risk of getting many infections.

### SYMPTOMS

Babies with SCID may appear well at birth but later are more likely to develop life-threatening infections. This is why early screening and identification are so important.

Early signs of SCID include:

- High number of infections
- Infections that do not improve with antibiotic treatment for two or more months
- Diarrhea
- Poor weight gain or growth (failure to thrive)
- Thrush (a fungal infection) in the mouth or throat that does not go away

Until the test results are back, you should<sup>1</sup>:

- Avoid exposing baby to illness and practice good hand hygiene
- See your baby's primary care physician if there are any signs of illness
- Ask your baby's primary care physician not to give vaccines that contain live viruses

### TREATMENT OPTIONS

The most effective treatment for SCID is a bone marrow transplant. Bone marrow makes cells for fighting infections and illnesses. Other treatments may include isolation from young children to prevent catching an illness from another child, protective antibiotics, and immunoglobulin replacement therapy.

