

Hemoglobin Barts/Alpha Thalassemia Information for Parents

What is hemoglobin?

- Hemoglobin is a part of our blood that carries oxygen to the body.
- Hemoglobin can be influenced by genes that are passed from parents to children.

How do we know that my child has alpha thalassemia?

- Pennsylvania has a newborn screening program that screens for many different medical conditions.
- A very small amount of your baby's blood was collected at the hospital in the first few days of life.
- Your baby's newborn screen showed us a higher than normal level of hemoglobin Bart's. This level tells us that your child may have a type of alpha thalassemia (an abnormality with the red blood cells).

What do we do now?

- We will work with you to find out which of the 4 types of alpha thalassemia your child has.
- Depending on which type your child has, this will help us decide what to do next.
- We will be sending bloodwork (CBC and alpha thal screen) when your baby is 4 months old.