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Warning on Genetic Testing of Newborns

Newborn screening is genetic testing by the government. Most states mandate it. Some allow opt-outs. New guidelines for genetic testing of newborns have just been issued. They suggest testing newborn babies for childhood-onset conditions but not for adult-onset conditions. They also say counseling parents before and after genetic screening is important.

Since most parents rarely even know newborn screening is being done, this could prove difficult. One physician warns against testing for childhood conditions. “We may find things that never come to fruition or results that we can’t fully interpret yet,” he says. Indeed. Then who will treat the lifelong fear of these parents?


Presented daily by Twila Brase, President, Citizens’ Council for Health Freedom.

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