Pulse Oximetry Screening
For Critical Congenital Heart Defects (CCHD)

Newborns without Cardiovascular or Respiratory Distress (Asymptomatic)

Pulse ox on right hand (RH) and one foot (F).

- 95% or higher in RH or F and 3% or less difference between RH and F (for any screen)
  - Pass*

- 90-94% in RH and F or 4% or more difference between RH and F

Rescreen in 1 hr*

- Screen up to 3 times.
  - If 3rd screen at 90-94% in RH and F or 4% or more difference between RH and F

- 89% or lower in RH or F (for any screen)
  - Fail*

Evaluation:
Assess for cardiac, respiratory, and/or infectious causes.

Baby is:
- At least 35 weeks gestation
- Awake and alert
- Comfortable/quiet

Timing is:
- Before discharge
- As close to 24 hours of age as possible

*Follow your policy on physician notification.

You might say:

Screen/Rescreen: “Pulse oximetry (pulse ox) is a way to check the oxygen level in the blood. It is painless and will only take a few minutes. If blood oxygen is a little low, we will recheck it later.”

Fail: “Pulse ox showed that the blood oxygen level is low. The medical team needs to follow-up right away to find out why. Sometimes a low pulse ox result is a sign of health problems. If there is a problem, it’s good to find out before your baby goes home.”

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Newborn Screening Follow-up
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Photos courtesy of Masimo Corporation.