

## **A Healthy Baby**

Before you and your baby go home, Massachusetts has some requirements to promote your baby's health and welfare. All babies born in Massachusetts are screened for 10 treatable diseases. For the small number of babies who do have one of these conditions, newborn screening can make a lifetime of difference. The testing is very simple. Just a few small drops of blood are collected when your baby is about two days old. If testing shows that your baby has a sign of one of these treatable diseases, your baby's doctor will call you to arrange appropriate care.

Massachusetts is also offering newborn cystic fibrosis screening and screening for an additional 20 disorders. This is an optional program. There is no added fee and no extra blood is taken from your baby to participate. After your baby is born, you will be asked if you want to take advantage of this optional program. It is your choice.

## **Hearing Screening**

Approximately 12,000-16,000 babies are born with hearing loss each year in the United States. All newborns in the state are required to be screened for hearing loss. St. Elizabeth's partners with expert audiologists to perform this important screening which is done while your infant is quietly sleeping to get the best results.

## **Car Seats**

The law requires that all infants ride in federally approved child safety seats when traveling. These laws are for your baby's protection and we encourage you to become familiar with your car seat before your baby is born. Please read the instructions and learn how to secure it in the rear seat of your car before you come to the hospital. The seat should remain secured in the car for discharge. This way, you will be all set when the time comes to bring your baby home.