

“He could have died”

“A few weeks ago, the newest addition to our family, Harrison (5 weeks old) was diagnosed with Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia (CAH).

From birth, I knew that something wasn't quite right with Harry. He had quite a low birth weight and looked unusually skinny. He vomited frequently and as the first few weeks of his life progressed, he became more and more unsettled. He eventually lost so much weight he actually began to weigh less than when he was born.

As a mother I knew something was wrong. In an effort to find out what was wrong, I saw two GPs, 5 different community health nurses and a lactation consultant who was also a midwife. I was trying all different methods of feeding him without success. The final straw came when after the 4th night/day of constant crying, Harrison started vomiting bright yellow in the early hours of the morning. I took him to emergency and he was taken straight in and diagnosed with "failure to thrive".

I then had to display the methods I was using to feeding him to the doctors for hours until they took some blood from him. This was an incredibly stressful time. I felt like I was doing something wrong! The blood test results revealed he had a critically low level of sodium. We were then rushed to the NICU at the children's hospital where we ended up staying for over a week to ensure Harrison was stabilised and was then finally diagnosed with CAH.

I still can't believe that if Harrison was tested for CAH in the routine screening we wouldn't have had to go through everything that we have. He could have died.”

Jo — Mother of Harrison

The day Harrison was admitted.



Diagnosed with CAH and stabilised
2 weeks later

