



# Newborn Screening News

Special Edition Addendum

December 2006

## NBS Has Expanded

Expansion of the newborn screening program from 7 to 27 disorders began in December. Here are important new procedures, reminders of current practices, and things you can do to make it a smooth transition.

### New procedures

- The first screen is now required at 24-48 hours. Specimens should be collected regardless of feeding status or prematurity. Many of the new disorders must be detected early for best outcomes.
- The new specimen collection kits (available soon) will include a green parent copy as the first sheet. Birthing facilities should complete the information on this sheet and give to the parent.
- Explain that the parent form should be taken to the baby's next office visit, will help link the child's first and second screen, and allows for quick notification of a disorder
- The physician performing the second screen should review the parent copy and write the serial number in the designated area on the second screen kit.
- Submitters will also notice new fields on the specimen collection kits, including a section for information on the primary care physician who will be caring for the child.
- The additional PCP contact information is important to assist case management staff in locating children with a possible disorder.
- The Newborn Screening Program will monitor specimen quality to identify submitters who need additional training and assistance with sample submission.

- "Report Cards" will be sent periodically to all submitters with information such as total number of unsatisfactory specimens received and transit time from collection to receipt at the laboratory.
- The NBS program will soon be moving to a 6-day workweek to enable faster turnaround of NBS laboratory results.

### Reminders

Please mail specimens within 24 hours of collection. With the expansion, there are now over 14 disorders with "critical" status that can cause severe problems the first week of life.

### What you can do to help!

- Please act quickly to get children back for medical care, confirmatory testing or rescreening when requested.
- Visit and become familiar with the case management web page for submitters located at:  
<http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/newborn>

### Case Management contacts

For urgent questions call: 1-800-252-8023

For non-urgent questions email:  
[newborn@DSHS.state.tx.us](mailto:newborn@DSHS.state.tx.us)

### Laboratory contacts

For urgent questions call: 1- 888-963-7111 ext. 7333  
For laboratory results call: 1-888-963-7111 ext. 7578

Non-urgent laboratory questions email:  
[LabInfo@dshs.state.tx.us](mailto:LabInfo@dshs.state.tx.us)