Newborn Screening News

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Texas Newborn Screening Program

Newborn screening is an essential, preventive public health program for early identification of disorders that can lead to catastrophic health problems. The cost of these disorders if left untreated is enormous, both in human suffering and in economic terms.

The disorders screened for by the Texas Newborn Screening Program (NBS) are chosen because:

* the disorder occurs with significant frequency
* an inexpensive and reliable method of testing exists
* an effective treatment/intervention exists
* if untreated, the baby may die or develop severe mental retardation
* the affected baby may appear normal at birth.

The goals of the Texas Newborn Screening Program are to ensure that:

* each baby born in Texas receives two newborn screening tests, the first within the first 72 hours of life (preferably after 36 hours of age and 24 hours after the first protein feeding), or before hospital discharge and the second test at one to two weeks of age;
* all infants testing outside of normal limits for a newborn screening disorder receive prompt and appropriate confirmatory testing;
* all individuals diagnosed with newborn screening disorders are maintained on appropriate medical therapy.

Achieving these goals requires coordinated efforts from three groups:

1) **Practitioners** are responsible for: the collection of, handling and labeling of **both the first and second** screening specimens; the prompt follow-up testing if indicated by screening results; the medical care; and the provision of parent education, support and referral to specialty care when needed.

2) **The Texas Department of Health Laboratory** is responsible for specimen analysis, record keeping, quality control of laboratory methods and notification of results to practitioner and case managers.

3) **The Case Management team** is responsible for tracking abnormal screens and diagnosed cases, linking confirmed cases to medical care, and serving as a source of information for practitioners, parents and the public about the newborn screening disorders and maintaining disease registries.

The staff of the Newborn Screening Program is available to assist you with any questions you may have about the program. On the reverse side of this newsletter is the Newborn Screening Directory. To contact us, call the toll free number, press #1 for English, #1 “if you know your party’s extension”, enter one of the extensions listed in the Directory.

To order free literature from the Newborn Screening Program for patients and specimen collection information for submitters, please call 1-800-422-2956, ext. 2129 or order online: http://www.tdh.state.tx.us/newborn/pubs.htm

Newborn Screening Directory
1-800-422-2956

Laboratory

The Laboratory can provide help in the following areas:

? Requests for collection forms, envelopes, and provider labels; payments for these supplies.
? Specimen collection procedures and techniques to avoid unsatisfactory test results.
? Requests for test results.
? Status of specimen arrival and test completion.
? Technical information on test procedures and reports.

General Information **7333**
Technical Information
Specimen Collection & Handling Procedures

Supplies **7661**
Forms (filter paper)
Envelopes
Provider Labels

Billing **7317**
Payments - NBS4 Forms

Reporting **7578**
Routine Specimen Reports
(Abnormal screens: Call Case Management for the abnormal disorder reported)

Quality Assurance **3233**
Unsatisfactory Specimen Collection

Texas Department of State Health Services

http://www.tdh.state.tx.us/newborn/newborn.htm

Case Management

The Case Management team can provide help in the following areas:

? Newborn screening educational materials (English and Spanish available)
? Instructions for follow-up of abnormal screening results, i.e. what type of specimen to submit for additional testing, where, and when.
? Referrals to pediatric specialists for diagnosis and management of newborn screening disorders.
? Referrals for financial resources available to assist with covering the costs of medical management and special dietary needs for diagnosed cases.
? Information on requirements for newborn screening in Texas.

General Information **2129**
Free Education Materials

Hypothyroidism
Information **7715**

Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia (CAH)
Information **2128**

Galactosemia
Information **2128**

Hemoglobinopathies (e.g. Sickle Cell Disease)
Information **2071**

Phenylketonuria (PKU)
Information **2128**

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