

CP 3.3.5 General Information About Confirmatory Testing for Primary Care Providers and Neonatologists

State of California Department of Public Health
Genetic Disease Screening Program
Newborn Screening Program
Quest Metabolic Disorders Reference Laboratory

Use of State Contract Metabolic Reference Laboratory: The State requires that all tests necessary to diagnose or rule out a metabolic condition identified via newborn screening be **ordered** by a metabolic specialist from one of the sixteen California Children's Services (CCS)-approved metabolic special care centers. The metabolic specialist in consultation with the primary care provider will determine if the newborn needs to be seen by him/her prior to receipt of confirmatory test results. Often the metabolic specialist will provide telephone consultation, partially complete the Test Request Form (TRF) and fax it to the primary care provider, or neonatologist for babies in NICUs. The primary care provider/neonatologist will add the insurance information when applicable, verify his/her name under **referring** physician and make the arrangements for collection of the necessary specimen(s).

Cost to Parents/Guardians: There will be **no** out of pocket cost to parents (including co-pays or deductibles) for testing necessary to obtain a diagnosis when the specimens are submitted to the state metabolic reference laboratory at Quest Diagnostics. In addition there is no cost for specimen collection and handling if the specimen is collected at a Quest Patient Service Center (See 3.9.3 D List of PSCs that collect specimens from infants). Parents are not required to utilize a Quest Patient Service Center and may have the specimen collected at laboratory, hospital or clinic. In this situation they may be charged a small fee for specimen collection by the hospital or other collection site.

Billing of Insurance: Insurance companies and health maintenance organizations (including Medi-Cal) may be billed for the testing, specimen collection and handling. **It is important that the insurance information requested on the TRF be complete and accurate.** Disregard the statement on the form that states "If the form is not completed, client will be billed." This does **not** apply to newborns referred by the California Newborn Screening Program.

Specimen Collection and Handling: Instructions for collection and handling of specimens should be provided to the primary care provider, neonatologist or laboratory draw station by the metabolic specialist who is ordering the specimen. If you have any questions contact the ordering physician or Quest Diagnostics at: 1-800-522-8378. The person collecting the specimen will need to verify the name of the newborn and write the **date and time of specimen collection** on the test request form.

Transport of Specimens to Quest: Specimens collected at a Quest Patient Service Center will be picked up by one of their couriers and taken to the laboratory for testing. When specimens are collected at non-Quest locations, Quest will need to be called immediately at **1-800-522-8378** to arrange for a pick up of the specimen. Do not put the specimens in the U.S. mail.