



State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
Department of Health Services



SANDRA SHEWRY
Director

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
Governor

July 1, 2005

SUBJECT: Newborn Screening Program Expansion on July 11, 2005

Dear Newborn Nursery Manager:

We are pleased to announce that starting July 11, 2005 the California Newborn Screening (NBS) Program will be expanding to include screening for classical congenital adrenal hyperplasia (CAH) and multiple additional metabolic disorders detectable via tandem mass spectrometry (including amino acid, organic acid and fatty acid oxidation disorders). Newborns whose NBS test request form and specimen collection card arrive at the Newborn and Prenatal Screening (NAPS) Laboratories on or after July 11, 2005 will be tested for these additional disorders as part of the mandatory screening program.

The revised program booklet, *Important Information for Parents About the Newborn Screening Test* (June 2005 edition) should arrive at your facility within the next few days. Please begin distributing this version to parents beginning July 10, 2005. Older versions of the booklet should only be used prior to July 10, 2005 and should then be destroyed. The booklet is also available in Cambodian, Chinese, Korean and Vietnamese. For copies, please call (510) 412-1542. Copies of these, plus Armenian, Farsi, Hmong, Laotian and Russian are available on our website at www.dhs.ca.gov/gdb.

Enclosed is the most recent Newborn Screening Program newsletter which provides specific information on the expansion and other changes to be implemented.

To accommodate the reporting of the analyte values and interpretation for the additional disorders we have expanded the NBS Results Mailer to two pages printed on both sides. Enclosed is a sample copy. These reports will continue to be sent out to the perinatal health facility that collected the NBS specimen (usually the hospital of birth) and the newborn's physician as listed on the newborn screening test request form. Duplicate copies can be obtained from the assigned Newborn Screening Area Service Center (see list on page 7 of enclosed newsletter) or the NBS program office (510- 412-1541).

Newborn Nursery Manager
Page 2
July 1, 2005

When these additional disorders are added to the current panel, we anticipate identifying a total of over 625 newborns each year with a clinically significant condition, most of whom will benefit from early diagnosis and treatment. Benefits include prevention of death, mental retardation or severe health problems associated with absence or delay of treatment.

Thank you again for your continued support of the Newborn Screening Program and for the important role that you play in the screening process. If you have any questions about the changes in the California Newborn Screening Program please contact your assigned Newborn Screening Area Service Center (ASC).

Sincerely,



George C. Cunningham, MD, MPH, Chief
Genetic Disease Branch



Kathleen Velazquez, MPH, Chief
Newborn Screening Section

cc: Chief Executive Officer
Risk Manager
Chief of Pediatrics
Chief of Neonatology
Chief of Obstetrics
Chief Nursing Officer
Perinatal Manager
NICU Manager
Laboratory Manager
Health Information/Medical Records Manager
NBS Area Services Centers Project Directors

Enclosures: *NBS News*, Summer 2005
NBS Results Mailer