



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



SANDRA SHEWRY
Director

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
Governor

Date: March 15, 2006

To: Project Directors,
Metabolic Center Vendor Agreements

Re: Metabolic Disorders Confirmatory Laboratory

This letter is to provide you with additional information regarding use of the Quest Metabolic Disorders Confirmatory Laboratory for infants referred to you by the Newborn Screening Program. We are asking all Metabolic Vendors to use the services of the Quest Metabolic Disorders Confirmatory Laboratory.

The following are issues regarding the Metabolic Disorders Confirmatory Laboratory we would like to bring to your attention:

- It is important to make sure that the test requisition forms (TRF) include specimen collection date and time. Some of test request forms have been submitted without this information. Please remind staff at your center if the infant's specimen is collected at your hospital or the primary care physician (PMD if he/she is making the arrangements for collection) that specimen collection time and date is required information.
- When completing the TRF please make sure your name is in the ordering physician space. **To avoid confusion please write the name of the referring physician or neonatologist in the comments area at the bottom of the TRF.** This will expedite your receipt of the results in a timely manner.
- Please enter the infant's accession number on the TRF in the field called "Patient ID No."
- We are working with Quest to develop a fillable PDF version of the TRF that can be completed in part by the metabolic specialist and then e-mailed or faxed to the primary care physician to complete insurance information, etc.
- Parents will not be billed for the cost of the test, however, non-Quest draw sites can charge a small specimen collection fee. 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.
- Ignore the section of the TRF that relates to New York residents.

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In the rare event that you need to use another lab for confirmation of a metabolic disorder you will need to forward a copy of the testing results to Steve Levine, PhD, Genetic Disease Branch, Department of Health Services, 850 Marina Bay Parkway F175, Richmond, CA 94804. Dr. Levine's telephone number is 510 412-1488. **Please include the infant's NBS accession number when you send these lab results to Dr. Levine.**

Some of you have experienced difficulties when referring families to Quest Pediatric Patient Service Centers. Though they routinely provide services to children, some do not have staff available on a regular basis to collect specimens from newborns. Enclosed is a list of Quest Patient Service Centers that are able to draw specimens on newborns. If you have other concerns with Patient Service Centers or specimens sent to the Quest Metabolic Disorders Confirmatory Laboratory please contact Dr. Neidich of Quest at (949) 728-4936 or (800) 642-4656 x 4936.

Enclosed is a fact sheet that provides instructions that the metabolic specialist can fax to PMDs or neonatologists with the partially completed TRF when the referring doctor is the one making arrangements with the family for specimen collection. We will also e-mail a copy of the fact sheet for your use.

Also enclosed is the brochure "Why Retest for Metabolic Disorders" that is provided to parents by the NBS Area Service Centers. If you would like to order additional copies for your office, please contact Gene HELP at (510) 412-1542.

Sincerely,



John E. Sherwin, Ph.D., FACB, Acting Chief
Genetic Disease Branch

Enclosures

cc: Julie Ann Neidich, MD, FACMG, DABMG
Medical Director
Quest Diagnostics Nichols Institute
Biochemical Genetics and Cytogenetics

Kathleen Velazquez, M.P.H., M.A., Chief
Newborn Screening Section

Karen Whitney, M.S.
Newborn Screening Section