



MARK B HORTON, MD, MSPH
Director

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



ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
Governor

July 1, 2008

Dear Metabolic Center Staff:

Based upon requests from many of the Metabolic Centers for a quicker turn around time for special circumstances, we have implemented a protocol for expediting the transit, testing and reporting of results for PHE Monitoring specimens.

Enclosed please find the protocols for regular PHE Monitoring and Expedited PHE Monitoring. Please read them closely for specific instruction on how to send regular PHE Monitoring specimens and the expedited specimens. You should expedite specimens only the first two specimens at the initiation of Kuvan treatment, and specimens for pregnant patients with PKU and newborns with PKU.

Testing at the Genetic Disease Laboratory Branch (GDLB) will continue to be done Monday through Friday. This means that your patients should have their blood drawn Monday through Thursday and then sent overnight to (GDLB) to assure that specimens are tested and results reported out the next day.

Also enclosed in this package are approximately 100 red URGENT labels as well as a sample TRF with an URGENT label applied properly. When you run low on labels, please contact Tracey Bishop or you can order your own labels from Shamrock Scientific Specialty Systems (they are product #UPCR-1053).

While it might be tempting to send all you PHE Monitoring specimen to GDLB marked URGENT, we ask that you limit the expediting to the first two Kuvan specimens, pregnant patients and newborns. Expediting specimens will dramatically increase the workload of the laboratory staff at GDLB and if we cannot sustain the new workload we will be forced to cancel the expediting altogether.

You will be getting a separate package from Golden State Overnight (GSO) containing prepaid labels to for the specimens to GDLB in Richmond. Once the specimen is dried and packaged in the envelope apply the GSO label to the outside and drop it in a GSO drop box (use www.GSO.com to locate the closest drop box).

Please feel free to contact me with any questions regarding this process at 510-412-6213 or tracey.bishop@cdph.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Tracey Bishop
Newborn Screening Branch

cc: Kathleen Velazquez, MPH, Chief, Newborn Screening Branch
Karen Whitney, MS, Metabolic Vendor Agreement Liaison
Leslie Gaffney, Genetic Disease Screening Laboratory