



California
Department of
Health Services

SANDRA SHEWRY
Director

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



ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
Governor

July 5, 2005

SUBJECT: Newborn Screening Program Expansion on July 11, 2005

Dear Prenatal Care Provider:

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) will be included in subsequent shipments of XAFP Program supplies. Please begin distributing this version to parents once your new shipment arrives but no earlier than July 10, 2005. Once you receive the new booklets you can destroy any remaining copies of the older version of the newborn screening booklet. 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. Additional information is also available on our website.

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.

Prenatal Care Providers
Page 2
July 5, 2005

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 the Newborn Screening Area Service Center (ASC) in your region. A list of the ASCs is on page 7 of the enclosed NBS newsletter.

Sincerely,



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



Kathleen Velazquez, MPH, Chief
Newborn Screening Section

cc: NBS Area Services Centers Project Directors

Enclosure: *NBS News*, Summer 2005