

CP 1.5.1 Letter informing hospital of need to screen child over 1 year of age

Dear Perinatal Manager:

Laboratory Manager:

Risk Manager:

We recently learned from your facility that it did not receive newborn screening results on _____ who was born _____. In checking our computerized records of all babies screened in California, we could not find this baby. Therefore we must assume that either the baby was not screened or that the specimen collected at your facility never reached the screening laboratory.

California law requires that all babies born in the state be screened. Perinatal licensed health facilities and birth attendants must 1) collect newborn screening specimens from babies when they are between 12 hours of age and 6 days of age and submit them to designated screening laboratories, and 2) review each newborn's medical record within 14 days of the baby's discharge to determine that results were received. If no results are located, the facility is to promptly communicate this to the California Department of Public Health in the event that another specimen needs to be collected.

In this situation, the hospital did not notify the Department that a newborn screening result was not received until several months later (or "over one year later"). The disorders for which the Department screens babies can cause disability and even death if not detected and treated soon after birth. If this baby has one of the 76 screened-for disorders, it is possible that he/she has already sustained irreversible damage, for which your facility would be liable. However, screening could still be of some benefit as the baby's physician and family would be able to respond accordingly if the baby tests positive for one of the screened-for disorders. For this reason, it is imperative that you locate the baby's doctor and family and arrange for the child to be screened. We can assist in making these arrangements, if necessary.

Please call us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Newborn Screening Coordinator

Phone #