



RON CHAPMAN, MD, MPH
 Director & State Health Officer

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



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
 Governor

March 8, 2013

Subject: CPT Code changes for Newborn Screening.

Dear Laboratory Director:

As a result of Senate Bill 395 legislation, the California Newborn Screening Program will officially include screening for Severe Combined Immunodeficiency (SCID). This will require no additional blood; you will continue to submit the six spots of dried blood on the newborn screening specimen collection card.

Beginning with specimens tested on March 1, 2013, we will begin reporting out T-Cell Receptor Excision Circles (TRECc) as the test for SCID. This will necessitate changes to the CPT codes we use for billing. We have added one CPT code (81479) but are billing it at \$0.00 so the total cost has not changed; it remains \$111.70.

82776 Galactose-1-phosphate uridyl transferase (TRA)	\$15.95
83021 Hemoglobin fractionation and quantitation;chromatography (Hb)	\$15.95
83498 Hydroxyprogesterone, 17-d (17-OHP)	\$15.95
83789 Tandem mass spectrometry; quantitative (MS/MS or TMS)	\$16.00
84443 Thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH)	\$15.95
82261 Biotinidase (BD)	\$15.95
83516 Immunoreactive trypsinogen (IRT)	\$15.95
81479 T-Cell Receptor Excision Circles (TRECc)	\$ 0.00

The first invoice you will see with the new CPT code will be sent in April. We are not raising the fee for the newborn screening panel at this time. It remains \$111.70. In addition, you may recoup the \$1 charge for the specimen collection card and may charge no more than \$6 for drawing and handling. This means that your patients should be billed no more than \$118.70 total for newborn screening.

Additional time is necessary to obtain SCID screening results. Therefore, result mailers will take an extra ten to fourteen days to reach your facility. In order to verify that specimens have been received and are being processed at the Newborn Screening Laboratory, staff at each hospital has received training in Online Specimen Tracking (OST). If you need additional information about OST, contact Melinda Chan at Melinda.Chan@cdph.ca.gov.

Laboratory Director
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We appreciate your continued support and cooperation in making California's Newborn Screening Program the success that it is. Should you have any questions about the changes to the CPT codes and/or newborn screening billing, please contact our accounting unit at (510) 231-7406.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Erica G. Gordon".

Erica G. Gordon, MA, Chief
Newborn Screening Clinical Support Branch
Genetic Disease Screening Program

cc: Chief Financial Officer
Director of Patient Billing
Accounts Payable Manager
Area Service Center Project Directors