

# New born Screening *Update*

## NBS Has Expanded

As of July 16, 2007, the California Newborn Screening Program (NBS) expanded to include Cystic Fibrosis (CF) and Biotinidase Deficiency (BD). The NBS program currently screens for 76 disorders.

## Faster Transport of Specimens Using UPS

The California Newborn Screening Program (NBS) is changing the way your NBS specimens are transported to screening laboratories. By the end of September 2007, all hospitals in this region will be sending specimens to laboratories via United Parcel Service (UPS) rather than by the U.S. Postal Service. This will allow the specimens to arrive overnight and be tracked by computer, which will reduce the number of lost specimens. UPS will pick up your specimens daily at your facility. If you do not have a daily pick up by UPS, you can arrange for one by calling (800) PICK-UPS, or drop off the specimens in a UPS drop box or UPS store. If you have any questions, please call your Area Service Center at (559) 353-6416.

## Timing of Specimen Collection

Babies must be screened **after 12 hours of age**, as close to discharge as possible, but no later than the sixth day of age. NBS has routinely cautioned against early specimen collection. Recently, there has been an increase in the number of newborns tested inappropriately early. Early collection **can** affect the results for metabolic and hypothyroidism screening. It can result in a false positive for primary



## New Forms for Newborn Screening

New test request forms (TRFs) will be sent out within the next few months. The filter paper will once again be attached to the TRF. You can use the old forms until you run out. There is no need to return them for credit. If you have any questions regarding these forms, please call our office at (559) 353-6416.

congenital hypothyroidism due to the normal biological phenomenon known as "neonatal surge" of thyroid stimulating hormone. More significantly, early collection could result in a false negative for phenylketonuria (PKU) and other amino acid disorders. For this reason, babies whose specimens were collected prior to 12 hours of life must have another specimen collected.

### Newborn Screening Area Service Center

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Newborn Screening Area Service  
Center designation and funding  
is provided by the California  
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## Accuracy of Test Request Forms

California averages 1,500 births a day. The accuracy and completeness of the demographic information entered on the Test Request Form (TRF) is important for the following reasons:

1. Patient information is used in reporting results to hospitals and physicians.
2. Information about a specimen, the birth weight, feeding type, and transfusion status are used in evaluating test results.
3. The physician's identity, as well as the whereabouts of the mother and baby, is essential to ensure timely tracking of the infant for follow-up testing and initiation of therapy if needed.

## Transfusion Procedure

If an infant has been transfused with red blood cells (or whole blood), NBS results for galactosemia and hemoglobinopathies are invalid for up to three months. The NBS Program strongly recommends the collection of the initial specimen prior to the transfusion, if at all possible, even if the infant is less than 12 hours of age. Hospitals are not penalized by the state for this early collection but are required to collect another specimen at least 24 hours after a transfusion.

## Attention: Heat Affects Specimens

Specimens can degrade with our extreme heat in the Central Valley during the summer months, or if placed near a heat source. This can cause false positive results for biotinidase deficiency or galactosemia. Please make sure your specimens are not placed near any heat source.

## PKU Confirmatory Testing Contact Information for Golden State Overnight

Golden State Overnight (GSO) courier service is used to transport specimens to the Genetic Disease Laboratory when confirmatory testing is needed for newborns with positive screens for phenylketonuria

(PKU). Call GSO at (916) 636-5135 or (800) 743-9985 to arrange specimen pickup. If there are any questions, please call our office at (559) 353-6416.



## Something to Brag About

For the 58 area hospitals in our region, there was a:

- 24% reduction in inadequates compared to last year.
- 55% reduction in inadequates due to clerical errors since the first quarter of 2006/2007.

Way to go!

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F A L L 2 0 0 7

## Thanks for Your Hard Work

Take the following quiz and fax it back **by Nov. 1, 2007 to (559) 353-6403**. Quizzes with a score of 100% will be put into a drawing on Nov. 2, 2007. The winner will be notified by phone to receive a one hour massage in your home town. Feel free to make copies and distribute among your staff. Only one form per person. Please circle your answer. Good Luck!

1. If a newborn is 10 hours old and a red blood cell transfusion is ordered within the next hour, you don't have to do a newborn screen until the transfusion is finished.      TRUE      FALSE
2. The accuracy and completeness of the Test Request Form (TRF) is not important.      TRUE      FALSE
3. Putting the specimen near any heat source could have an effect on the NBS results.      TRUE      FALSE

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Number: \_\_\_\_\_

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

9300 Valley Children's Place OS14  
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