

ONTARIO NEWBORN SCREENING PROGRAM – BULLETIN #1

Dear Health Care Provider,

As you know, the Ontario Newborn Screening (NBS) Program moved from Toronto to Ottawa and began reporting results on April 4, 2006. The program has already expanded from screening only for phenylketonuria (PKU) and congenital hypothyroidism (CH) to screening for these two conditions plus MCAD (medium chain acyl-CoA dehydrogenase) deficiency. Over the course of the year, the program will be expanding even further and we hope to be screening for at least 27 conditions by the end of 2006. Information about the expanded NBS program can be found at:

http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/child/screening/screen_sum.html.

To keep you updated about changes that will be occurring to the NBS program, we have compiled this email distribution list. Please share the information in these updates with any personnel in your hospital/clinic who may be involved in the newborn screening process. If there is someone who would like to be added to this list, please let us know.

This week, we will be starting to send out electronically generated reports for each newborn screened by the program. **This means that any lab sticker or identifying chart number that may have been affixed to the original requisitions will not be returned to you.** Several hospitals have expressed concern that this will greatly hamper their ability to match the report that we send to the infant's medical record at their institution. In order to address these concerns, we suggest the following *temporary* solution: **please HIGHLIGHT the patient's unique number that is most important to you on the white copy of the requisition.** For some hospitals, this will be the patient's chart number. For others, it will be the specimen send-out identifier. On the new newborn screening blood dot card that will be introduced this summer, a 12-digit field will be available for you to write in your hospital unique number. We will begin to include this number as the "Submitter Unique #" on the electronically generated report as soon as we can. Some reports that you may receive in the interim may not yet have this feature. Please see the attached sample report for more details.

Thank you for your cooperation and assistance in making the Ontario Newborn Screening Program the most effective and efficient that it can be. Further updates will follow as needed.

Sincerely,

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