

BULLETIN #10 – December 1, 2006

1. Formatting Error on Recent Reports

As you may have noticed, NBS reports printed on several days this week contained a formatting error. The results for "Glutaric Acidemia Type I" appear in the same box as the disease name (see below), rather than in the results box. These results are correct. We have solved the problem and apologize for any confusion this formatting error may have caused.

Organic Acidemias:		
	Propionic / Methylmalonic Acidemias	Negative
	Isovaleric Acidemia / 2 Methylbutyric Acidemia	Negative
	Glutaric Acidemia Type I	Negative
	3 Methylcrotonic / Hydroxymethylglutaric / Methylglutaconic / 2-Methyl, 3-Hydroxybutyric Acidemias, or β Ketothiolase Deficiency	Negative
	Organic Acidemias, other	*

2. Hemoglobinopathies

On November 24, 2006, the Ontario Newborn Screening Laboratory began screening for sickle cell disease (i.e., HbSS, HbSC, and HbS/ β -thalassemia (for more information about these blood disorders, see http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/child/screening/pdf/fs_scd.pdf).

At the present time, **carrier status for these disorders will not be reported**, although this issue is currently under review. All results will be reported as "positive" or "negative".

3. LIS Codes

Following are the suggested test codes for your Laboratory Information System (LIS):

TEST CODE	TEST NAME (corresponding to the line on the screening report)
NBS-HBS	Hb SS, Hb S/C, Hb S/ β Thal
NBS-HBO	Hemoglobinopathies, other

4. Cystic Fibrosis Testing

On November 23, 2006 the Honourable George Smitherman, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, announced that Ontario will be the first province in Canada to begin newborn screening for cystic fibrosis. This is exciting news for the Ontario NBS Laboratory. We will keep you informed as we develop this new testing and determine the rollout date, likely in late 2007.

Again, thank you for your cooperation and assistance in making the Ontario Newborn Screening Program the most effective and efficient that it can be.

Additional information about the Ontario Newborn Screening Program can be found at: http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/child/screening/screen_sum.html

These bulletins are being circulated to keep you abreast of changes to the Ontario Newborn Screening program. Please share this information with any relevant personnel in your hospital / clinic. If there is someone who would like to be added to this list, contact: Tillie Chiu or Sari Zelenietz, Genetic Counsellors
 (613) 738-3222, option #1; NewbornScreening@cheo.on.ca