KIDMED Program

Neonatal/Newborn Screening

Newborn screening (via heel stick) includes testing for 28 conditions recommended by the American College of Medical Genetics (ACMG). Conditions screened for include phenylketonuria (PKU), congenital hypothyroidism, sickle cell disease, cystic fibrosis and many other heritable disorders or diseases. Louisiana Law R.S. 40:1299.1-3 requires hospitals with delivery units to screen all newborns before discharge for these conditions, regardless of the newborn's length of stay at the hospital. Louisiana Administrative Code (LAC:48:V.6303) also provides the State Rule requirements related to newborn screenings.

You are responsible for obtaining neonatal screening results. You may obtain results of the initial neonatal screening by contacting the hospital of birth, the health unit in the parish of the mother's residence, or through Office of Public Health (OPH) Genetics Diseases Program's web based Secure Remote Viewer (SRV). You can sign-up for SRV by contacting the Genetic Diseases Program at 504-568-8254 or by following this link:

http://www.dhh.louisiana.gov/offices/miscdocs/docs263/NBS%20form/SRV%20Registration%206-23-10.pdf

Newborns must have another newborn screen if they are initially screened prior to 24 hours of age, or if results of screening are not available. The newborn infant should be rescreened at the first medical/KIDMED visit after birth, preferably between one and two weeks of age, but no later than the third week of life. This is because cases may be missed if the initial screening occurs too soon after delivery and there is a greater risk of false negative results for specimens collected from infants younger than 24 hours of age.

The initial or repeat neonatal screening results for these 28 conditions including PKU, hypothyroidism, sickle cell disease and cystic fibrosis must be documented in the medical record for all children less than six months of age. Children over six months of age do not need to be screened for these conditions unless it is medically indicated.

These tests can be performed only by the OPH Central Laboratory or another Medicaid-approved laboratory using the same testing methodologies. OPH does not charge private providers for the blue border Lab-10 filter paper form used in blood specimen collection for neonatal screening of Medicaid-eligible infants. You can obtain the form at OPH parish health units or by calling the OPH Genetic Disease Program at (504) 568-8254.

When a positive result is identified from any of these conditions and a private laboratory is used, the provider must immediately notify the Louisiana OPH Genetic Disease Program office at (504) 568-8254. The OPH Genetics Program staff will provide instruction on obtaining confirmatory testing and specialized medical management.

Contact the OPH Genetics Disease Program office at (504) 568-8254 or visit the website at www.genetics.dhh.louisiana.gov for assistance and all inquiries.