

NEWBORN SCREENING NEWSLETTER MARCH 21, 2016



Newborn Screening Courier Change

The State of Ohio has awarded the medical courier contract for newborn screening samples to Priority Dispatch Inc. The change in service is scheduled to begin on Friday April 1, 2016. Every hospital newborn screening coordinator should be contacted by Priority Dispatch to discuss when and where newborn screening samples will be picked up at your facility.

We understand that changes to the newborn screening courier may result in some changes to procedures within your facility. Please make it a priority to inform everyone at your facility that will be affected by the change in courier service.

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Krabbe Disease to be added to the Ohio Newborn Screen

The newborn screening laboratory will begin screening babies born in Ohio for Krabbe disease. Our goal is to begin this screening on samples received by the lab on July 1, 2016.

Krabbe disease is a progressive neurodegenerative disease that can have a variable age of onset and severity. In the most severe infantile form, symptoms begin in the first few months of life. Affected babies present with irritability, feeding problems, and muscle rigidity. Neurologic deterioration progresses rapidly and death usually occurs in the second year of life. There is no cure for Krabbe disease; however, a stem cell transplant may slow the progression of the disease if done before symptoms present.

It is estimated that one to two babies are born in Ohio each year with the severe infantile form of Krabbe disease. Without newborn screening, a diagnosis Krabbe cannot be made in time for parents to consider treatment options.

Please Remember

- Draw the initial newborn screen between 24 and 48 hours of life
- Let the sample dry horizontally for 3 to 4 hours
- Double check that all fields are completed on the attached demographic sheet
- Place in newborn screening envelope for next available courier pick-up

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