



DATE: November 13, 2013
TO: Washington State Board of Health Members
FROM: Dr. Diana Yu, Board Member
SUBJECT: BRIEFING-- NEWBORN SCREENING PROGRAM CHAPTER 246-650 WAC

Background and Summary:

The Washington State Board of Health rules for newborn screening are designed to detect congenital disorders leading to developmental impairment or physical disabilities, and to protect the confidentiality of information and human biological specimens associated with these requirements. The newborn screening rules are contained in Chapter 246-650 WAC with statutory authority provided by RCW 70.83.050.

According to Chapter 246-650-040 WAC, the Department of Health must make annual reports to the Washington State Board of Health. The report is to include “(1) the costs of tests as charged by the Department; (2) the results of each category of tests, by county of birth and ethnic group, as reported on the newborn screening form and, if available, birth certificates; and (3) follow-up procedures and the results of such follow-up procedures.”

This year’s report provides detailed information on newborn screening during 2012, and summary information of test results from 2008 – 2011. Also included in a brief history of the beginning of newborn screening in our state and a summary of the dates when conditions were added to the screening panel. Data is presented in a series of tables and accompanying explanations. A copy of the executive summary is located under tab 10 of your packets.

The report will be posted on the program’s website in accordance with the rule. Mike Glass, Director of the Newborn Screening Program at the Department of Health, will provide today’s briefing to the Board.

Recommended Board Action:

No action required.

Staff Contact: Tara Wolff