



DATE: June 11, 2014

TO: Washington State Board of Health Members

FROM: Diana T. Yu, MD, MSPH

SUBJECT: BRIEFING: CHAPTER 246-650 WAC NEWBORN SCREENING-- UPDATE
NEEDED PER SHB 2544 (2014)

Background and Summary:

The Washington State Board of Health has the duty under RCW 70.83.050 to define and adopt rules for the screening tests for all newborn infants born in Washington. The Board's newborn screening (NBS) rules are contained in Chapter 246-650 WAC.

A bill (SHB 2544) was passed during the 2014 legislative session, which made changes to the statute (RCW 70.83.020). Effective June 12, 2014, RCW 70.83.020 specifies that children born in any setting receive NBS, unless parents/guardians object based on religious beliefs. It also specifies that

- NBS samples must be collected no more than 48 hours following birth;
- NBS samples must be received by the Department of Health within 72 hours of sample collection;
- the attending health care provider must notify Department of Health of the date results were provided to the family; and
- the Department of Health must compile an annual report on hospital compliance rates.

These changes help ensure that more infants are screened regardless of their place of birth, and that parents and guardians receive NBS results promptly. A delayed test result or the lack of a NBS test can put an infant at serious risk of disability or even death.

The Washington State Board of Health will need to update these rules to assure consistency with this legislation. Because we will adopt these statutory changes without material change, we plan to use an abbreviated rule making process. This means that we will not file CR-101 Statement of Inquiry instead we will file a CR-102 for Proposed Rulemaking in June and will hold a public hearing at our August Board meeting.

Today Lain Knowles, Director of the Newborn Screening program at the Department of Health, will provide a briefing describing the current rule, rule changes needed based on the 2014 legislation, and next steps.

Recommended Board Action:

No recommended action.

Staff Contact:

Tara Wolff
