



DATE: August 13, 2014

TO: Washington State Board of Health Members

FROM: Diana T. Yu, MD, MSPH

SUBJECT: HEARING: CHAPTER 246-650 WAC NEWBORN SCREENING (CHAPTER 18, LAWS OF 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.

During the 2014 legislative session, a bill (SHB 2544) was passed that made changes to Chapter 70.83 RCW Phenylketonuria and other Preventable Heritable Disorders. Effective June 12, 2014, the law now requires 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 and must be received by the Department of Health within 72 hours after collection; the attending health care provider must notify Department of Health of the date results were provided to the family; and 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 has proposed adopting these statutory changes without material change, enabling us to use an abbreviated rule making process. This means that we did not file CR-101 Statement of Inquiry and instead, we filed a CR-102 for Proposed Rulemaking and are holding a public hearing today.

Lain Knowles, Director of the Newborn Screening program at the Department of Health, will briefly review the current rule and changes needed based on the 2014 legislation, the rule revision process, comments received, and Department recommendations.

Recommended Board Action:

Depending on testimony offered, the Board may choose to consider the following motion.

***Motion:** The Board adopts revisions to Chapter 246-650 WAC as proposed in WSR 14-14-066 along with the following language edit to 246-650-040(2)(c) “The time taken by health care providers to notify parents and guardians after being notified by department about infant screening tests that indicate a suspicion of abnormality that requires further diagnostic evaluation. Notification times will be summarized and reported in increments of days.” as proposed in the comment letter from WSHA to better explain the term “prompt”.*

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