



DATE: June 6, 2016

TO: Washington State Board of Health Members

FROM: Diana T. Yu, MD, MSPH

SUBJECT: NEWBORN SCREENING 2014 AND 2015 ANNUAL REPORTS

Background and Summary:

In accordance with WAC 246-650-040, the Department of Health (Department) must make annual reports to the Washington State Board of Health (Board). 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.” The *Newborn Screening 2014 Annual Report* covers each of these topics.

In 2014, Substitute House Bill 2544 passed. As a result RCW 70.83.080 and WAC 246-650-040 now also require the Department to write an annual report for the public that includes: the compliance rate of hospitals at meeting the newborn screening deadlines, information related to the performance of each individual hospital, and information about the extent to which health care providers are promptly informing parents and guardians about abnormal screening results.

The Department also provides a quarterly report to hospitals on the quality of the specimens received at the laboratory. The Newborn Screening Program then provides training and guidance for hospitals to ensure the best possible testing results. In order to streamline these reporting requirements and to ensure that the Board, the legislature, and the public can easily access all of these pieces of information, the Department has included all of these components in one report. *The Newborn Screening Program 2015 Annual Report* therefore includes the reporting requirements for the report to the Board, those for the report to the public, and information on the quality of the specimens received at the lab.

The reports will be posted on the program’s website in accordance with the rule. Dr. John Thompson, 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: Michelle Davis