



Washington State Board of Health

Petition for Rulemaking – chapter 246-650 WAC, Newborn Screening

March 10, 2021

John Thompson, PhD, MPH, MPA

Director, Department of Health Newborn Screening Program

Sam Pskowski, MPH

State Board of Health Policy Advisor

Board Policy for Newborn Screening Criteria

Three guiding principles govern all aspects of the evaluation of a candidate condition for possible inclusion in the Newborn Screening panel:

- Decision to add a screening test should be driven by evidence. For example, test reliability and available treatment have been scientifically evaluated, and those treatments can improve health outcomes for affected children.
- All children who screen positive should have reasonable access to diagnostic and treatment services.
- Benefits of screening for the disease/condition should outweigh harm to families, children, and society.

Newborn Screening Criteria

- Available screening technology
- Diagnostic testing and treatment available
- Prevention potential and medical rationale
- Public health rationale
- Cost-benefit/cost-effectiveness.

Congenital Cytomegalovirus

- A congenital viral infection that can result in damage to hearing and developmental delays
- Prevalence of 1:200 births
 - 1:5 of those born with CMV will experience health problems
- Most common screening is through urine or saliva
 - Dried blood spot can be used
- Diagnosis must occur within two to three weeks following birth to confirm congenital CMV (as opposed to acquired infection)
- Antiviral medications exist and may improve hearing and developmental outcomes in newborns with symptoms at birth

cCMV Screening – Current State

- Currently, three facilities in Washington are providing screening for cCMV
 - Two utilize a urine or saliva sample, one a residual bloodspot
- Six states currently conduct cCMV screening
 - Utilize a “fail-first” approach, those who fail a newborn hearing screening are then screened for cCMV
 - Several of these states rely on saliva sample, with at least one requiring confirmatory urine screens

| THANK YOU