

WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

Date: March 12, 2025

To: Washington State Board of Health Members

From: Kelly Oshiro, Board Chair

Subject: Newborn Screening Technical Advisory Committee, Review of Newborn Screening Criteria

Background and Summary:

The Washington State Board of Health (Board) has authority under RCW 70.83.050 to define and adopt rules for screening Washington-born infants for hereditary conditions. WAC 246-650-010 defines the conditions, and WAC 246-650-020 lists the conditions for which all newborns are to be screened.

To determine which conditions to add to the rule, the Board convenes a technical advisory committee (TAC) to review conditions and make recommendations to the Board regarding possible inclusion in the newborn screen (NBS) panel. The TAC evaluates candidate conditions using the Board's [guiding principles and an established set of criteria](#).

Due to a recent increase in condition review requests and anticipated workload, the Board and the Department of Health (Department) acknowledged the need to review and update the current process. The Board and Department convened a TAC to identify strategies to streamline the condition review request process, modernize the evaluation criteria, and strengthen the overall process to address current program demands.

The TAC met on January 14 and February 11, 2025, to conduct a review of the criteria used to evaluate conditions for the newborn screening panel. At the request of the TAC, the Department provided suggested updates to the criteria, along with the addition of a sixth criterion. The TAC suggested minor edits to the proposed updates and voted to recommend that the Board accept the changes to the newborn screening evaluation criteria.

I have invited Kelly Kramer, Board staff, to provide an overview of the TAC's criteria review recommendations.

Recommended Board Actions:

The Board may wish to consider one of the following motions:

The Board accepts the Newborn Screening Technical Advisory Committee's recommendation to adopt updated criteria for evaluating conditions for the newborn screening panel, as presented, with any changes requested by the Board.

OR

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The Board declines the Newborn Screening Technical Advisory Committee's recommendation for the Board to adopt the updated criteria for evaluating conditions for the newborn screening panel.

Staff

Kelly Kramer, Policy Advisor

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PO Box 47990 • Olympia, WA 98504-7990
360-236-4110 • wsboh@sboh.wa.gov • sboh.wa.gov