



**Date:** April 09, 2025

**To:** Washington State Board of Health Members

**From:** Kelly Oshiro, Board Member

**Subject:** Legislative Report of the Technical Advisory Committee Review of Branch-Chain Ketoacid Dehydrogenase Kinase Deficiency Newborn Screening

**Background and Summary:**

The Washington State Board of Health (Board) has the authority under RCW 70.83.050 to 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 on the state's required newborn screening panel.

During the 2023-2024 legislative session, Senate Bill 6234 passed, which directed the Board to conduct a review of branch-chain ketoacid dehydrogenase kinase (BCKDK) deficiency for Washington's mandatory newborn screening panel.

On January 14, 2025, a technical advisory committee (TAC) convened to consider this condition against the Board's five newborn screening criteria. During the committee meeting, TAC Members evaluated BCKDK deficiency against established criteria: Available Screening Technology, Diagnostic Testing and Treatment Available, Prevention Potential and Medical Rationale, Public Health Rationale, and Cost-benefit/Cost-effectiveness. The TAC also voted to make an overall recommendation to the Board whether to adopt BCKDK deficiency to the newborn screening panel.

At the March 12, 2025, Board of Health meeting, the Board reviewed the TAC's votes and recommendations. They voted unanimously to accept the TAC's recommendation to not include BCKDK deficiency to the newborn screening panel.

**Recommended Board Actions:**

The Board may wish to consider and amend, if necessary, the following motion:

The Board directs staff to finalize the draft BCKDK deficiency legislative report based on the Board's input today, in consultation with the NBS TAC Co-Chairs and Department of Health's Newborn Screening program and send the report to the Governor in advance of the final report due date June 30, 2025. Once the Governor's Office receives the report, staff are directed to send a copy to TAC Members who contributed to it, and appropriate legislative committees.

**Staff**

Kelly Kramer, Policy Advisor

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