



Date: June 4, 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 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.

The Board reviewed the TAC's votes and recommendations at the March 12, 2025, meeting. 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 approves the BCKDK deficiency legislative report and directs staff to finalize the report in consultation with the Chair, and submit it to the Governor and appropriate legislative committees by June 30, 2025. The Board directs staff to send copies of the final report to TAC Members.

Staff

Kelly Kramer, Policy Advisor

To request this document in an alternate format or a different language, please contact the Washington State Board of Health, at 360-236-4110 or by email at wsboh@sboh.wa.gov
TTY users can dial 711.