



STATE OF LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HOSPITALS



Alan Levine
SECRETARY

NEWBORN HEEL STICK SCREENING

- The 48 HR. CUT OFF FOR REPEAT SCREENING REDUCED TO <24 HRS.
- THE POLICY FOR REPEAT SCREENING POST TRANSFUSION SIMPLIFIED

January 17, 2008

Dear Newborn Screening Submitter:

Effective January 20, 2008, policy changes with the Newborn Screening Rule (LAC 48: V. 6303) will be amended through an emergency rule as published in the *Louisiana Register* of this date. These important changes affecting the operation of the Newborn Heel Stick Screening Program and recommended by the Newborn Screening Advisory Committee are described below.

Hour Cut Off for Routine Repeat Screening

Old Policy: Repeat Screening for Specimens Collected Before 48 Hours.

New Policy: Repeat Screening for Specimens Collected before 24 Hours.

The rule further states the following as excerpted from the emergency rule:

There is a greater risk of false negative results for specimens collected from babies younger than 24 hours of age. Therefore, newborns screened prior to 24 hours of age must be rescreened at the first medical visit, preferably between one and two weeks of age, but no later than the third week of life. Repeat screening should be arranged by the primary pediatrician; however, it may be done by any primary healthcare provider or clinical facility qualified to perform newborn screening specimen collection.

Policy for Repeat Screening Post Transfusion

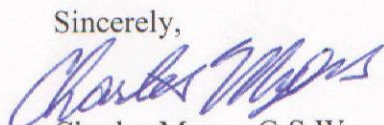
Old Policy: 2 days, 7 Days and 90 Days post transfusion

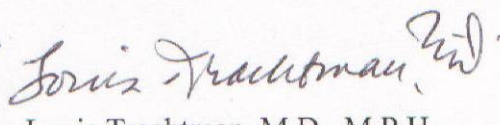
New Policy: 3 days and 90 days (Whenever possible, a specimen should be collected prior to transfusion).

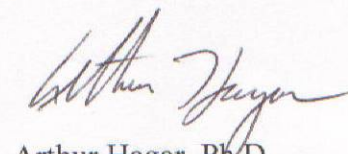
To view the current rules and find other information on newborn screening and follow-up, open the Genetic Diseases Program website at www.genetics.dhh.louisiana.gov/ and you will also find a link to the OPH Laboratory website.

Thank you for your cooperation with the Newborn Heel Stick Screening Program.

Sincerely,


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Genetic Diseases Program


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