



State of Louisiana
Louisiana Department of Health
Office of Public Health Laboratories

Tuesday, April 25, 2017

All,

The OPH Laboratory has completed a review all of the cut-off values used for newborn screening testing based on the 2015 data. The evaluation was done first by comparing the mean values observed (measured) values for each analyte (compound detected) during 2015 to the 2014 mean values for the same analyte. This is a way to look for shifts in the average reference values for the Louisiana newborn population as a whole.

We also looked at all of the values that were obtained from children who were found to have a disease or condition for which we are screening (true positives) to ensure that any changes made would not result in our having missed detecting a true positive child. We looked at all of the positives we had from 2008 to the present.

Additionally, as a practical matter we looked at the number of false positives that would be generated. These are newborns who would screen as positive but, who would not be diagnosed as having the condition for which we were screening. This was done to ensure that changes would not increase the numbers of false positive which increases program costs and places a burden on follow-up staff and health care providers.

The changes suggested are very small and conservative and will not greatly change the number of false positives. The only reason to make these changes is to ensure that our reference or cut-off values are derived from the current Louisiana newborn population observed values and that no changes had occurred that might result in our missing an affected child. The excel spreadsheet attached above contains the final cut-off values. The first tab has the information for immunoassay testing and the second tab has the data for mass spectroscopy testing. We will begin reviewing the 2016 data shortly. I would like to thank Terry Crockett and Dr. Richard Tulley for pulling the data and doing the analysis.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stephen J. Martin, Ph.D.".

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