



Protecting, maintaining and improving the health of all Minnesotans

June 24, 2013

Dear Colleagues,

Governor Dayton and the legislature have joined together with medical professionals and parents across Minnesota in acknowledging the important role newborn screening plays in protecting the lives and health of children in our state. Recent legislative actions endorsed the collaboration between laboratories, clinicians, and the Minnesota Department of Health in providing screening, treatment, and follow-up for 55 serious disorders. New legislation now extends this same model to screening newborns for severe combined immunodeficiency (SCID) and for related t-cell lymphopenias as well as for critical congenital heart disease (CCHD) screening.

All expenses of the Newborn Screening Program must be covered by the fee charged to participants. By law, the fee is collected at the time newborn screening cards are sold to hospitals, clinics, and midwives. Recent changes in newborn screening require raising the fee for screening to \$150. This fee increase goes into effect on July 1, 2013 and covers all necessary laboratory costs for screening tests as well as costs associated with education and follow-up statewide. The last price change for newborn screening was in 2010. Included in this fee are new requirements to increase the cost \$10 per card (from \$5 to \$15) in order to cover family support services for deaf and hard of hearing children, including individual deaf mentors and sign language training. Additional revenue will also be directed to new responsibilities at MDH for sustaining SCID screening and for the implementation and coordination of a statewide program to screen infants for (CCHD) critical congenital heart disease.

In the months ahead we will let you know more details regarding the initiation of mandatory screening for critical congenital heart disease and its related follow-up program. We look forward to your continuing collaboration with us in the important, life-saving work of newborn screening.

Thank you for your ongoing efforts to protect the health of the youngest Minnesotans through newborn screening. Please be sure to contact us if you have any questions regarding the Newborn Screening Program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark McCann", is written over a white background.

Mark McCann, Manager
Newborn Screening Program
Minnesota Department of Health

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