SCID Newborn Screening in Missouri Goes Live

Dear Practitioner, Laboratory Manager, or Newborn Nursery Manager:

On January 3, 2017, the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services’ Newborn Screening Program launched a full population pilot to screen all Missouri newborns for Severe Combined Immunodeficiency (SCID).

Effective October 9, 2017, the Missouri State Public Health Laboratory (MSPHL) will be going live with the routine reporting of SCID, thereby adding this as an additional disorder category to the standard newborn screening laboratory reports.

SCID is a disorder where a child is born without a functioning immune system and therefore lacks the ability to fight off infections. Without early detection and intervention, babies with SCID will suffer multiple infections and typically die before their first birthday. Treatment with a stem cell transplant provides a 95% cure rate for this disorder if given in the first three months of life. Newborn screening for SCID is nationally recommended and was added to the Recommended Uniform Screening Panel by the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

The newborn screening dried blood spot collection process will not change, however it is important to note that providing the baby’s gestational age and birth weight on the newborn screening collection form is vital to the MSPHL regarding screening result interpretations for SCID.

All newborns with high risk abnormal screening results will be referred to the SCID follow-up program manager, who will contact the primary care provider with more detailed information regarding recommended follow-up and confirmatory testing.

If you have questions or comments, please contact: Amber Bryant, SCID follow-up program manager, 573-751-6266, or by email at Amber.Bryant@health.mo.gov or Darla Eiken, Chief of Newborn Screening Laboratory, 573-751-2662, or by email at Darla.Eiken@health.mo.gov