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BUREAU OF COMMUNITY HEALTH PROMOTION

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Date: February 3, 2015

To: Hospital Administrators, Newborn Nursery Managers, Neonatal Intensive Care Units (NICU), Special Care Nurseries, Primary Care Providers, Wisconsin Academy of Family Physicians, Wisconsin Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Wisconsin Guild of Midwives, and Wisconsin Hospital Association

From: *Timothy E. Corden, MD*
Timothy E. Corden, MD
Chair, Wisconsin Newborn Screening Advisory Umbrella Committee
Chief Medical Officer for the Bureau of Community Health Promotion

Charles D. Brokopp, DrPH
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Director

Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene/University of Wisconsin-Madison

Re: **Report Newborn Screening Status on Every Wisconsin Birth.**

Dear Newborn Screening Partners: In the spirit of the Wisconsin Newborn Screening Program's (NBS) continuous quality improvement efforts, this communication informs you of a collaboratively developed upcoming policy directed at reporting the newborn screening status on every Wisconsin birth. This new policy is meant to ensure that all eligible newborns in the state have access to newborn blood, hearing, and critical congenital heart disease (CCHD) screening in the required timeframe. To accommodate this new policy, the Wisconsin Newborn Screening Blood Collection Forms (cards) have been revised to enable submitters to report "not screened" status. The revised forms also expand CCHD screening data elements, eliminating the need for a supplemental CCHD form.

We hope this "Report Newborn Screening Status on Every Wisconsin Birth" policy will allow the NBS program to reconcile births with state vital records data, helping all of us ensure that every family who chooses newborn screening for their baby has received it. Below you will find bulleted new items and reminders that are associated with this policy. A sample of the revised Newborn Screening Blood Collection Form and instructions for completing the form are available on the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene (WSLH) Newborn Screening website (<http://www.slh.wisc.edu/revised-newborn-screening-cards>). We will start distributing the new forms in February 2015, and expect full policy implementation as of July 1, 2015.

- Revised Newborn Screening Blood Collection Forms will be available in February 2015. Submitters are encouraged to exchange old cards for the revised ones by contacting the WSLH.
- Revised Newborn Screening Blood Collection Forms must be completed and submitted regardless of whether blood screening is performed. Forms without blood sample collection will be replaced without charge on a monthly basis.
- Point of care screening (Hearing and CCHD) should never delay submitting blood cards to the WSLH. Newborn screening specimens should be collected within 24 – 48 hours after birth, and specimens should be sent to the WSLH within 24 hours of collection. If CCHD pulse ox testing has not been done by the time the blood specimen is ready, photocopy the newborn screening blood card and ship the original blood card. The CCHD screening results can be recorded on the photocopy of the blood card, and then sent to the WSLH.

We appreciate your assistance with this quality assurance effort; we recognize that for the NBS program to best serve Wisconsin families, all facets of the program must work well together. We look forward to working with you to implement this new policy.

If you have questions or concerns regarding the revised Newborn Screening Blood Collection Forms or the new policy, please contact Dr. Mei Baker at the Wisconsin Newborn Screening Laboratory at (608) 890-1796 or mwbaker@wisc.edu. Policy questions can also be directed to Wisconsin Newborn Screening Program Coordinator, Ms. Tami Horzewski at Tami.Horzewski@dhs.wisconsin.gov.

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