



Protecting, maintaining and improving the health of all Minnesotans

September 21st, 2011

Dear Neonatal Colleagues,

The Newborn Screening Program would like to alert you to a change in result reporting that will impact you and many of the infants in your care.

In screening for disorders of amino acid metabolism, detection of a pattern consistent with TPN administration will no longer be reported as abnormal. Consequently, we will no longer recommend the measurement of plasma amino acids 48 hours after return to enteral nutrition. Unless other abnormalities are detected or information on the newborn's type of feeding is not provided on the screening card, the screening for metabolic disorders by tandem mass spectrometry will be reported as negative.

Screening recommendations for the collection of plasma amino acids were made because of concern that abnormalities of amino acid metabolism could potentially be overlooked if a child were on TPN. Thanks to the high compliance with follow-up over several years by you and your colleagues in the collection of subsequent plasma amino acid specimens we are now confident that TPN detection can be treated as a clinically insignificant dietary artifact in the context of newborn screening and thus can be reported as negative. Our discernment and decision is supported by consultation with biochemical geneticists and genetic/metabolic specialists within the State of Minnesota.

Please feel free to contact the staff of the Newborn Screening Program with any questions you have about this change in screening policy or any other concerns you may have. Thank you again for all your collaboration with us here at MDH to keep infants healthy through newborn screening.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark McCann", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Mark McCann, Manager
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Minnesota Department of Health

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