

36-694. Report of blood tests; newborn screening program; committee; fee; definitions

A. When a birth or stillbirth is reported, the attending physician or other person required to report the birth shall state on the certificate whether a blood test for syphilis was made on a specimen of blood taken from the woman who bore the child or from the umbilical cord at delivery, as required by section 36-693, and the approximate date when the specimen was taken.

B. When a birth is reported, the attending physician or person who is required to report the birth shall order or cause to be ordered tests for certain congenital disorders, including hearing disorders. The results of tests for these disorders must be reported to the department of health services. The department of health services shall specify in rule the disorders, the process for collecting and submitting specimens and the reporting requirements for test results.

C. When a hearing test is performed on a newborn, the initial hearing test results and any subsequent hearing test results must be reported to the department of health services as prescribed by department rules.

D. The director of the department of health services shall establish a newborn screening program within the department to ensure that the testing for congenital disorders and the reporting of hearing test results required by this section are conducted in an effective and efficient manner. The newborn screening program shall include all congenital disorders that are included on the recommended uniform screening panel adopted by the secretary of the United States department of health and human services for both core and secondary conditions. Beginning January 1, 2022, disorders that are added to the core and secondary conditions list of the recommended uniform screening panel shall be added to this state's newborn screening panel within two years after their addition to the recommended uniform screening panel. The newborn screening program shall include an education program for the general public, the medical community, parents and professional groups. The director shall designate the state laboratory as the only testing facility for the program, except that the director may designate other laboratory testing facilities for conditions or tests added to the newborn screening program on or after July 24, 2014. If the director designates another laboratory testing facility for any condition or test, the director shall require the facility to follow all of the privacy and sample destruction time frames that are required of the state laboratory.

E. The newborn screening program shall establish and maintain a central database of newborns and infants who are tested for hearing loss and congenital disorders that includes information required in rule. Test results are confidential subject to the disclosure provisions of sections 12-2801 and 12-2802.

F. If tests conducted pursuant to this section indicate that a newborn or infant may have a hearing loss or a congenital disorder, the screening program shall provide follow-up services to encourage the child's family to access evaluation services, specialty care and early intervention services.

G. The director shall establish a committee to provide recommendations and advice to the department on at least an annual basis regarding newborn screening best practices and emerging trends.

H. The director may establish by rule a fee that the department may collect for operating the newborn screening program, including contracting for the testing pursuant to this section. The director shall present any change to the fee for the newborn screening program to the joint legislative budget committee for review.

I. Not later than sixty days after the department adjusts the newborn screening program fee established pursuant to subsection H of this section:

1. Each health insurer that is subject to title 20 shall update its hospital rates that include newborn screening to reflect the increase.

2. For the Arizona health care cost containment system and contractors acting pursuant to chapter 29, article 1 of this title that are not subject to title 20, the Arizona health care cost containment system shall update its hospital rates that include newborn screening to reflect the increase.

J. For the purposes of this section:

1. "Infant" means a child who is twenty-nine days of age to two years of age.

2. "Newborn" means a child who is not more than twenty-eight days of age.