

ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH  
ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
BUREAU OF FAMILY HEALTH SERVICES  
ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

CHAPTER 420-10-1  
CARE AND TREATMENT OF INFANTS IDENTIFIED  
THROUGH THE NEWBORN SCREENING PROGRAM

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**420-10-1-.01 Purpose.** The purpose of these rules is to provide administrative details and procedures for the care and treatment of newborns identified with phenylketonuria, hypothyroidism, galactosemia, congenital adrenal hyperplasia, hearing loss, hemoglobinopathy, biotinidase deficiency, cystic fibrosis, aminoacidopathies, fatty acid oxidation disorders, organic acidurias and acidemias, critical congenital heart disease and other heritable diseases.

**Authors:** Thomas M. Miller, M.D., Lucinda G. Ashley, R.N.-B.C.

**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, §§ 22-2-2, 22-20-3.

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**420-10-1-.02 Definitions.**

(a) **Phenylketonuria** - A congenital disease due to a deficit in the metabolism of the amino acid phenylalanine.

(b) **Hypothyroidism** - A deficiency of thyroid gland activity with underproduction of thyroxin or the condition resulting from it.

(c) **Hemoglobinopathy** - Any hemoglobin phenotype which is other than AA.

(d) **Physician of Record** - The physician who requests the test.

(e) **Galactosemia** - An inherited error in the metabolism of galactose.

(f) **Congenital adrenal hyperplasia** - an inherited error in steroid biosynthesis.

(g) **Hearing loss** - the total or partial inability to hear sound in one or both ears.

(h) **Biotinidase deficiency** - inherited deficiency caused by the lack of an enzyme involved in biotin synthesis.

(i) **Amino acid disorders** - inherited disorders in amino acid metabolism.

(j) **Fatty acid oxidation disorders** - inherited disorders in fatty acid metabolism.

(k) **Organic acid disorders** - inherited disorders in organic acid metabolism.

(l) **Cystic Fibrosis** - inherited disorder caused by a defective protein (cystic fibrosis transmembrane regulator, CFTR) involved in the salt balance of the body.

(m) **Critical Congenital Heart Disease (CCHD)** - a subset of congenital heart defects characterized by a diminished availability of oxygen to the body tissues that causes severe and life-threatening symptoms and requires intervention within the first days or first year of life.

**Authors:** Thomas M. Miller, M.D., William J. Callan, Ph.D., Lucinda G. Ashley, R.N.-B.C.

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**420-10-1-.03 Designation of Additional Heritable Diseases.** The State Board of Health hereby designates the following as a heritable disease subject to testing, reporting and notification requirements herein below specified. Phenylketonuria, hypothyroidism, galactosemia, congenital adrenal hyperplasia, hearing loss, hemoglobinopathy, biotinidase deficiency, cystic fibrosis, aminoacidopathies, fatty acid oxidation disorders and organic acidurias and acidemias, CCHD and other heritable disorders.

**Authors:** Thomas M. Miller M.D., William J. Callan, Ph.D., Lucinda G. Ashley, R.N.-B.C.

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**420-10-1-.04 Reporting And Notification.**

(1) The Alabama Department of Public Health shall report all results of phenylketonuria, hypothyroidism, galactosemia, congenital adrenal hyperplasia, hearing loss, hemoglobinopathy, biotinidase deficiency, cystic fibrosis, aminoacidopathies, fatty acid oxidation disorders, organic acidurias and acidemias and other heritable disease

testing to the submitting health care provider. Test results on transferred infants may be made available to both the transferring and receiving facilities.

(2) The submitting health care provider shall report all results, including positives, suspected positive results, and unsatisfactory specimens, to the physician of record (the physician indicated on the collection form) of the newborns tested and shall use such forms and follow such guidelines as shall be determined by the State Health Officer. The health care provider shall report the results of any hearing tests performed on the newborns to the Alabama Department of Public Health and shall use such forms and follow such guidelines as shall be determined by the State Health Officer.

(3) The Alabama Department of Public Health may release results of newborn screening tests, including hearing screening results, to any physician registered with the Alabama Voice Response System under the terms and conditions of the system without a signed release from the parent or guardian.

(4) The submitting health care provider shall screen all newborns in well baby nurseries for CCHD using pulse oximetry and shall use such forms and follow such guidelines as shall be determined by the State Health Officer.

(5) The submitting health care provider shall report the results of any failed pulse oximetry screening results to the Alabama Department of Public Health and shall use such forms and follow such guidelines as shall be determined by the State Health Officer.

**Authors:** Thomas M. Miller, M.D., William J. Callan, Ph.D., Lucinda G. Ashley, R.N.-B.C.

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**420-10-1-.05            Counseling And Management.**

(a) The Alabama Department of Public Health shall make contact with the physician of record and the parent/guardian of newborns who test positive, for phenylketonuria, hypothyroidism, galactosemia, congenital adrenal hyperplasia, hearing loss, hemoglobinopathy, biotinidase deficiency, cystic fibrosis, aminoacidopathies, fatty acid oxidation disorders, organic acidurias and acidemias and other heritable disorders to notify them of positive test results and ascertain whether or not these newborns are under the care of a private physician. Additionally, the Alabama Department of Public Health shall make contact with the physician of record and the parent/guardian to advise them of the services available through the Alabama Department of Public Health. Newborns who are under the care of a private physician may additionally utilize these same services. The Alabama Department of Public Health may make contact with the family to make their services available or may assist the family in obtaining the services of a private physician. Services include health assessments, treatment, and referrals to tertiary care centers.

(b) The Alabama Department of Public Health shall make contact with the submitting health care provider of newborns with failed pulse oximetry results to verify that appropriate screening, referral, and intervention services have been provided and if needed, may assist in obtaining the services. Services include health assessments, treatment, and referrals to tertiary care centers.

**Authors:** Thomas M. Miller, M.D., William J. Callan, Ph.D., Lucinda G. Ashley, R.N.-B.C.

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**420-10-1-.06 Fees.** The Board shall assess and collect newborn screening fees from hospitals and birthing centers or third party payors. The newborn screening fee shall be set by the State Committee of Public Health based on the schedule of laboratory fees established by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for use by Medicare and Medicaid. The Board shall bill the Medicaid Agency for Medicaid eligibles.

(1) Hospitals classified as "rural" by CMS or which have less than 105 beds and are located at least twenty (20) miles from the nearest acute care facility with obstetrical capabilities may have newborn screening fees waived for non-Medicaid eligible patients where there is no third party payor for such fees. The State Health Officer shall annually submit a list of hospitals to the Board which are eligible for waiver of fees.

(2) Additional reasonable and necessary fees may be charged to other payors by the hospital or physician in connection with this rule. The State Health Officer may waive fees deemed uncollectible because of a patient's inability to pay.

(3) There shall be only one (1) fee per birth collected from a hospital by the Board.

**Authors:** Lloyd Hofer, M.D., William J. Callan, Ph.D.

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