

Newborn Screening

Alabama Department of Public Health • September 2014

Online Access to NBS Results Coming Soon

The Alabama Newborn Screening Program is currently working to make newborn screening results available online through the Secure Remote Viewer or SRV. SRV is a web-based system that allows healthcare providers to securely access newborn screening results online. The system will allow users to print results immediately from a computer.



Physicians currently in the State Newborn Screening Laboratory system will be eligible to gain access to SRV. Further instructions will be provided to those physicians registered in order to gain access. Physicians will be limited to access only those patient records that are linked to their unique provider number. A logged in provider will be able to find and view the most recent newborn screening results for his or her patients. Be on the lookout for further information regarding SRV.

Survey for Alabama Primary Care Providers

The Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) and the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services (ADRS) conduct a comprehensive statewide maternal and child health (MCH) needs assessment every five years. As part of the current assessment cycle, a survey of Primary Health Care Providers for Women of Childbearing Age, Children, and Youth regarding Alabama's service capacity and the State's health care delivery system is being conducted. Information from this survey will be used to identify the most important MCH needs for the State of Alabama.

This survey should take about 15 minutes or less of your time. You will only be asked to answer questions that concern your area of practice and you may skip any question that you prefer not to answer. Completion of this survey implies your consent to use your responses in the summarized findings. Your answers will be completely anonymous, including any direct quotes used in the final report.

To take the survey, please go to www.adphprovidersurvey.com and click on the link. For more information please contact Tammie R. Yeldell, MPH, at 334-206-5553 or by email at mch@adph.state.al.us.



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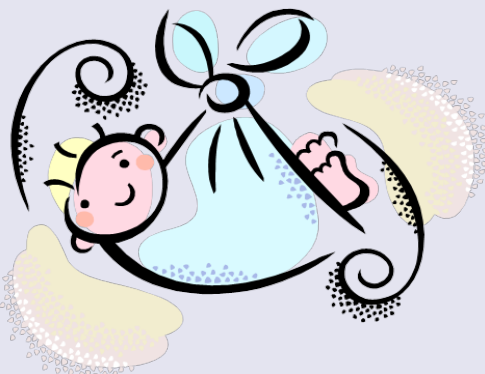
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NBS Audiology Consultant Departs



Melissa Richardson, MS, CCC-A, Audiology Consultant with the Alabama Newborn Hearing Screening Program, announced her resignation after more than seven years of service. Mrs. Richardson has been an asset to the Program and has gone above and beyond to serve the babies of Alabama. She has been the face of Newborn Screening as she traveled

statewide to assist providers with hearing equipment needs. Mrs. Richardson also was instrumental in implementing electronic reporting of newborn hearing results, which has significantly increased the state's newborn hearing screening reporting rate. She will be missed as her knowledge and expertise have been vital to the success of the Alabama Newborn Hearing Screening Program.

Unsat Reports Available via a Secure Website

The Alabama Newborn Screening Program now requires hospital NBS Coordinators to access monthly unsatisfactory reports via a secure internal web site. Hospital coordinators must create an account through the Alabama Department of Public Health. The site requires a username and password as well as a password to open each monthly unsat report.

This is a more efficient and secure way of providing unsatisfactory reports to hospitals. In addition, it solves the issue of 7-zip files being blocked by hospital firewalls. These files are often blocked because they were once used to send computer viruses.

The new internal website also allows hospital coordinators to access archived unsatisfactory reports anytime. Coordinators are notified by email once reports are uploaded to the site.

Be on the lookout for other newborn screening reports to be added to the site.

Free Mobile Apps for Newborn Screening



There is a free mobile application available through the American College of Medical Genetics (ACMG) for ACT Sheets. ACT Sheets provide short term actions a health provider should follow in communicating with the family and determining the appropriate steps in the follow up of the infant that has screened positive.



In addition, there is a free newborn hearing mobile application available through the App store. The CDC Early Hearing 411 app has been developed by the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) team. The main purpose of this app is to provide a way for parents to manage their children's early hearing care information and share resources on infant hearing loss.

NBS Resources Provided to Obstetricians

The Alabama Newborn Screening Program had the opportunity to attend the Twenty-Third University of South Alabama Obstetrics and Gynecology Conference held at the Daphne Civic Center, April 10-11. There were over one-hundred participants in attendance.

The Alabama Newborn Screening Program exhibited at the conference and passed out education material and shared resources with obstetric providers. Charissa Moore, Program Coordinator with *Strong Start for Mothers and Newborns*, was more than willing to take education material back to her prenatal clinic to share with at-risk pregnant mothers.

Approximately 4 million babies are born every year in the United States that undergo newborn screening. Many parents do not hear about newborn screening before the delivery of their baby. Educating parents about newborn screening before delivery can help alleviate fears regarding initial positive test results and ensure parents act quickly in retesting their new baby. The Newborn Screening Program continues efforts to provide resources to state obstetricians in order to effectively inform expectant parents about newborn screening.

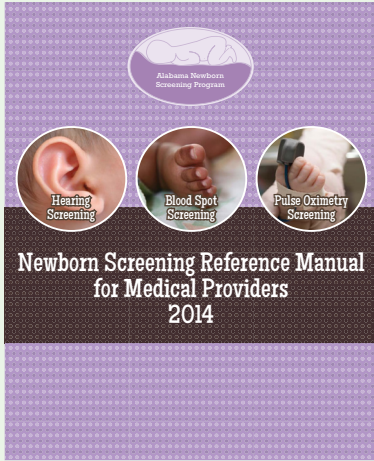


We are in the process of developing a single brochure that will replace all of the newborn screening brochures including the new booklet, "Definitions for 31 Core Conditions." Be on the lookout for this new brochure!



Participants review newborn screening resources during the 23rd USA Obstetrics and Gynecology Conference in Daphne, Alabama.

NBS Specimen Handling & Transport



The handling and transport of newborn screening specimens has been making national headlines recently. Improper specimen handling and transport has been blamed for deadly delays in identifying life-threatening conditions in newborns. This national attention has encouraged states to seek improvements in collection and transport of newborn screening specimens to ensure they get to laboratories to be processed in a timely manner.

The Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute® (CLSI) Newborn Screening Collection Approved Standards have been used as a guideline. This document was provided to all birthing facilities in the state and addresses issues associated with specimen collection and specimen handling and transport. According to the CLSI, “The dried blood specimen should be transported or mailed to the laboratory within 24 hours after specimen collection, and the appropriate tracking documentation maintained with periodic review for timely delivery assurance. Daily courier transport is recommended whenever possible.”

In addition, the Program has a nurse educator available for training needs or if there are questions regarding specimen collection to include proper handling and transport of specimens. Please contact the Alabama Newborn Screening Program at 334-206-5729 or 334-260-3400 if you have any questions or concerns regarding specimen handling and transport.

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