

Process to Evaluate Conditions for Inclusion in the Required Newborn Screening Panel

September 08, 2023

Department and Board Authority – Relevant Laws and Rules for Newborn Screening

Chapter 70.83 Revised Code of Washington (RCW)

- RCW 70.83.020, Department authority to require screening tests for all babies in Washington (not just babies born in hospitals).
- RCW 70.83.050, Board authority to define and adopt rules for screening Washington-born infants for heritable conditions.

Chapter 246-650 Washington Administrative Code (WAC)

• WAC 246-650-010 and WAC 246-650-020, define and list the conditions required for the state's newborn screening panel.

Three Guiding Principles

Three guiding principles govern all aspects of the evaluation of a candidate condition for possible inclusion in Washington's Newborn Screening panel:





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Available Screening Technology

Sensitive, specific and timely tests are available that can be adapted to mass screening.



Diagnostic Testing and Treatment Available

Accurate diagnostic tests, medical expertise, and effective treatment are available for evaluation and care of all infants identified with the condition.



Prevention Potential and Medical Rationale

The newborn identification of the condition allows early diagnosis and intervention. Important considerations:

- There is sufficient time between birth and onset of irreversible harm to allow for diagnosis and intervention.
- The benefits of detecting and treating early onset forms of the condition (within one year of life) balance the impact of detecting late onset forms of the condition.
- Newborn screening is not appropriate for conditions that only present in adulthood.

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Public Health Rationale

Nature of the condition justifies population-based screening rather than risk-based screening or other approaches.



Cost-benefit / Costeffectiveness

The outcomes outweigh the costs of screening. All outcomes, both positive and negative, need to be considered in the analysis. Important considerations to be included in economic analyses include:

- The prevalence of the condition among newborns.
- The positive and negative predictive values of the screening and diagnostic tests.
- Variability of clinical presentation by those who have the condition.
- The impact of ambiguous results. For example, the emotional and economic impact on the family and medical system.
- Adverse effects or unintended consequences of screening.

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NEWBORN SCREENING TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE OPTIONAL REFLECTION TOOL

GAMT						
	Criteria					
		Available Screening Technology	Diagnostic Testing & Treatment Available	Prevention Potential & Medical Rationale	Public Health Rationale	Cost-benefit/Cost- effectiveness
Reflective Principles-Based Questions	What stands out to you about the evidence? What do you want to learn more about?	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.
	What access & equity considerations are you thinking about?	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.

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