

Date: October 8, 2024

To: Washington State Board of Health Members

From: Kelly Oshiro, Board Member

Subject: 2024 Newborn Screening Criteria Review Project

Background and Summary:

The Washington State Board of Health (Board) has the authority under RCW 70.83.050 to adopt rules for screening Washington-born infants for hereditary conditions. WAC 246-650-010 defines the conditions, and WAC 246-650-020 lists the conditions on the state's required newborn screening panel.

The Board has a process it follows when considering new conditions to include in the state's newborn screening panel. To determine which conditions to include, the Board may convene an advisory committee to evaluate candidate conditions using [guiding principles and an established set of criteria](#).

Since 2023, the Board has received four petitions for rulemaking to evaluate new conditions for possible inclusion in the state's [mandatory newborn screening panel](#). Last legislative session, the Board also received a directive to review two additional conditions: branch-chain keto acid dehydrogenase kinase deficiency (BCKDKD) and congenital cytomegalovirus (cCMV).

Advancements in screening technology and rare disease treatments may lead to a further increase in requests, along with seven candidate conditions that the Department of Health is monitoring for potential review. To address the increase in condition review requests and anticipated workload, the Board's current process and criteria may need to be reviewed and updated. The current process and criteria were last reviewed in 2014- 2015.

The Board and Department of Health are forming a technical advisory committee (TAC) to identify possible strategies to streamline the condition review request process, modernize the evaluation criteria, and strengthen the overall process to address current demands better. This same TAC will also complete condition reviews for BCKDKD, cCMV, and Wilson's Disease. The first TAC to review process and criteria is scheduled for October 28, 2024, at the Public Health Lab in Shoreline, WA.

Recommended Board Actions:

This is an informational update, not requiring any Board action.

Staff

Kelly Kramer, Policy Advisor

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