DATE:    March 31, 2016

FROM:    Dr. Fizza Gulamali-Majid, Division Chief
         Division of Newborn and Childhood Screening

THROUGH:  Robert A. Myers, Ph.D., Director
          Laboratories Administration

TO:     Pediatricians and Health Care Providers

Newborn Screening for Severe Combined Immunodeficiency (SCID) to begin April 1, 2016.
The Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene is pleased to announce the addition of Severe
Combined Immunodeficiency (SCID) to the Maryland Newborn Screening Panel beginning April 1, 2016.

What is Severe Combined Immunodeficiency (SCID)?
Severe combined immunodeficiency (SCID) is a group of inherited disorders, characterized by a deficiency or
absence of functional T-cells and B-cells. SCID is one of the most serious and life-threatening forms of immune
system problems. It can occur in approximately one in 40,000 to one in 100,000 babies a year. Babies with
SCID are unable to make antibodies to protect themselves or respond effectively to infectious agents. Although
they typically appear normal at birth due to protection by the mother’s antibodies, these babies quickly become
vulnerable to recurring infections. Even common infections and normally recommended vaccines can be life-
threatening to affected babies. Although rare, SCID can be successfully treated if identified early in life. If not
treated, most of the affected infants die within the first year of life.

The addition of SCID to the Newborn Screening Panel will not require an additional specimen.

Where can I find more information about Severe Combined Immunodeficiency (SCID)?
For Healthcare Providers:
• ACT/FACT sheets https://www.aemg.net/StaticContent/ACT/SCID.pdf

For Parents:
• Baby’s First Test http://www.babysfirsttest.org
• Save Babies Through Screening Foundation http://www.savebabies.org
• Immune Deficiency Foundation http://primaryimmune.org

The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) Newborn Screening Program will have more
information and educational brochures on Severe Combined Immunodeficiency (SCID) available soon on DHMH
Laboratories Administration Website. http://dhmh.maryland.gov/laboratories

If you have any questions or comments, please contact the Newborn Screening Laboratory at:
Telephone: (443) 681-3900    Email: mdphl.nbs@maryland.gov

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