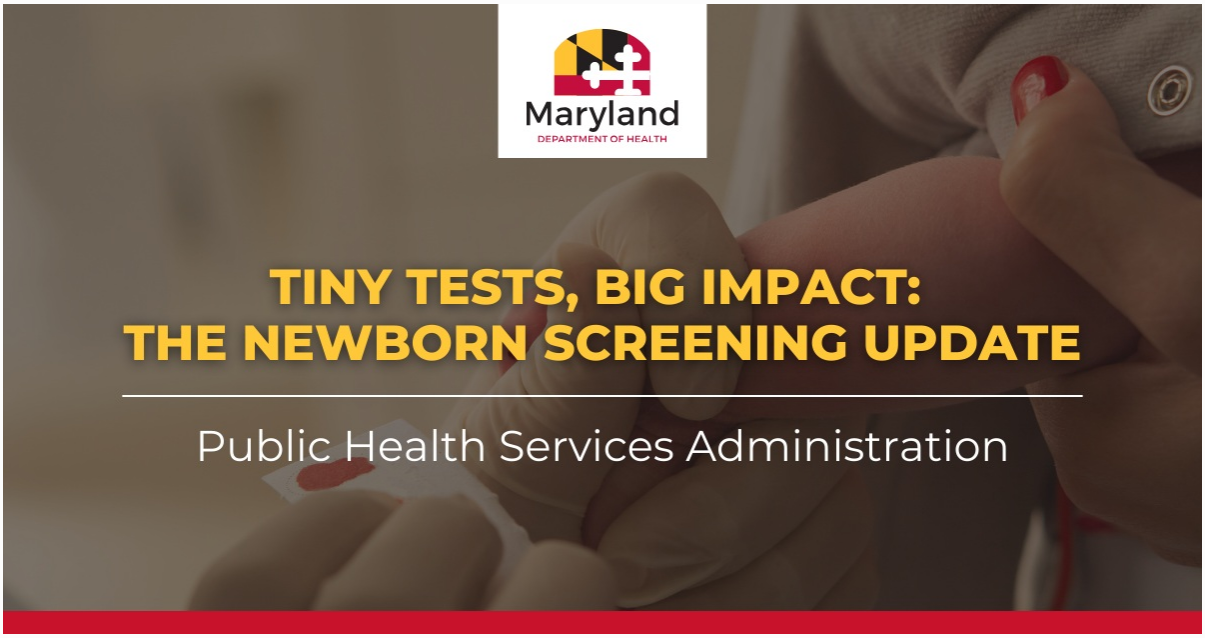
November 2024



Welcome

Welcome, and thank you for taking the time to read our inaugural Newborn Screening Newsletter! We are excited to launch this first edition and look forward to sharing many more with you in the future.

Our primary goal is to provide valuable resources and the latest information on newborn screening to enhance the services we offer to our Maryland babies. We believe that informed families and caregivers play a crucial role in the health and well-being of our little ones, and we are committed to supporting you every step of the way.

In each edition, you can expect to find updates, educational materials, and helpful tips that will empower

ICYMI- In Case You Missed It

Webinar

The Maryland Newborn Screening Program recently hosted a webinar to share program updates.

A recording of the webinar can be viewed here.

Educational Materials

Interested in Newborn Screening educational materials for your patients and families. Order MDH materials here.

Provider Contact Information

Please share direct contact information for a clinical staff member so that our newborn screening team knows how to best contact you. Please complete this form to share the information.

you to make informed decisions regarding newborn screening. In addition, we intend to spotlight staff in the Newborn Screening Program so that you get to know who we are and what we do. Your feedback and engagement are vital to our mission, and we encourage you to share your thoughts and suggestions with us. Thank you once again for joining us on this journey. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of Maryland's newest residents.

LaPortia Barrows, RN BSN,
Program Manager, Newborn Screening Follow-Up and CCHD Programs

M. Christine Dorley, PhD
Division Chief, Newborn and Childhood Screening

Coming Soon: GAMT

Maryland Newborn Screening will soon add guanidinoacetate methyltransferase deficiency (GAMT) to the newborn screening panel. What should providers know:

Incidence: Approximately 1 in 250,000

Prevalence: Less than 1,000 people in the US

Signs and Symptoms: Delayed sitting or walking, delayed speech, weak muscles, uncontrolled movements, seizures

Cause: A changed GAMT gene prevents the body from making creatine properly, and causes a buildup of guanidinoacetate. Without enough creatine, the body does not get enough energy to support important processes. Guanidinoacetate can have toxic effects on brain cells. GAMT deficiency, most seriously affects the brain and muscles.

Treatment: Treatment may include Creatine and ornithine supplements, sodium benzoate, medications to treat seizures, special diet low in protein, and/or speech,

occupational, and behavior therapy

Employee Corner: Sharing Our Why

I joined the Newborn Screening Division in August 2023. I was so excited to embark on a new journey where I could learn about the newborn screening process while ensuring the babies and infants of Maryland have a healthier and brighter future.

Working in this division has provided me with invaluable insights into the importance of early detection and intervention for various disorders that can affect newborns and infants. I've been inspired by the dedication of my colleagues and the positive impact our work has on families across the state.

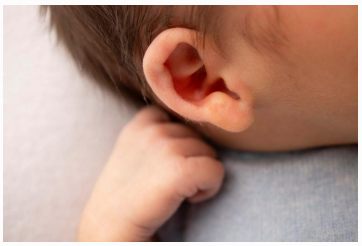
In reflecting on my experience so far, I realize that Newborn Screening has offered me far more than I could ever contribute. It has deepened my understanding of public health and strengthened my commitment to making a difference in the lives of children and their families.

I look forward to continuing this important work and am very excited about the potential advancements in newborn screening that will improve early detection and intervention for our most vulnerable populations.

Kashonta L G Ellis, PHLS II

Newborn Screening Collection Tip of the Month

The ideal initial newborn metabolic screen collection time is 24-48 hours. Ideally, as close to 24 hours of age as possible, but the baby needs to have fed for at least 24 hours. Feeding for at least 24 hours is crucial for detecting Galactosemia and other Amino Acid disorders.



Newborn Hearing Screening

Maryland has a number of resources available for babies who are ultimately diagnosed as deaf or hard of hearing.

- Family Support Services through Maryland Early Connections
- Maryland Hearing Aid and Language & Communication Video Loan Bank
- Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program

Want something included in the next quarterly newsletter? Email mdh.cyshcn@maryland.gov

https://health.maryland.gov/phpa/cyshcn/Pages/home.aspx