



Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Meena Seshamani, M.D., Ph.D., Secretary

MEMORANDUM

Date: January 9, 2026

To: All providers of Newborn Screening (NBS) specimens

From: LaPortia Barrows, RN, BSN Program Manager, NBS Follow-up and CCHD Programs

Subject: Total Galactose (TGAL) Testing

Summary

Due to intermittent supply chain constraints and reagent backorders, **TGAL testing is currently unavailable**. GALT enzyme activity testing remains fully operational and continues without interruption. This disruption is not expected to delay the identification or referral of infants at risk for classical galactosemia.

What's Changing

- TGAL testing is temporarily suspended.
- Screening protocols will rely exclusively on GALT enzyme activity during this period.
- A modest increase in consultation or referral inquiries may occur.

What's Not Changing

- GALT enzyme activity testing continues without interruption.
- Timely identification, referral, and follow-up processes remain in place.

Background: TGAL and Galactosemia Screening

TGAL testing measures the combined concentration of free galactose and galactose-1-phosphate, which can accumulate when an infant is unable to metabolize galactose. TGAL serves as a sensitive screening marker for disorders of galactose metabolism and is typically used alongside GALT enzyme activity testing. While TGAL enhances screening sensitivity, classical galactosemia can be identified based on GALT enzyme activity alone.

Next Steps

We are actively monitoring reagent availability and will provide updates as additional information becomes available. If the baby is showing signs and symptoms of classical galactosemia, including diarrhea, vomiting, gaining weight slowly (failure to thrive), poor feeding, or excessive sleepiness (lethargy), please send the baby to the emergency room and consult with a metabolic specialist for further testing.

Questions

For questions or additional information, please contact the newborn screening team at 443-681-3900 or 443-681-3916.