



J. Patrick O'Neal, M.D., Commissioner | Nathan Deal, Governor

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Medical Providers within the State of Georgia

FROM: Newborn Screening Program

RE: Optional Krabbe Screening

DATE: December 21, 2017

Background: The Georgia Newborn Screening (NBS) Program screens for over 40 primary and secondary conditions. Krabbe disease is a very rare condition that can cause severe neurological problems or even death. It is not currently included on the state or national NBS panels. In the spring of 2017, the Georgia General Assembly mandated that parents be made aware of their option to have their infants screened for Krabbe disease at birth.

Program Update: The Georgia Newborn Screening program has partnered with genetic specialists in the state to develop educational materials about optional Krabbe screening. This information has been added to the NBS brochure and disseminated to birthing facilities and health departments across the state.

Parents are encouraged to work with their providers to establish a plan for Krabbe screening before the birth of their child. It is important that the Krabbe specimens are collected within a few days of birth and sent immediately to the chosen screening lab. More information on optional Krabbe screening, including a list of accredited laboratories, can be found at the following website <https://dph.georgia.gov/NBS>.

Impact: Parents may request more information about Krabbe disease and their option for screening. The recently issued NBS brochure provides parents with information about Krabbe screening as well as contact information for the NBS program.

Timely response to an abnormal screening result is critical. If a patient receives an abnormal result for Krabbe screening, their provider should immediately contact the geneticist or call through the CHOA (Children's Healthcare of Atlanta) paging service at 404-785-7778 to get guidance.

If you have additional questions or would like to request NBS brochures for your office, please contact Judith Kerr, Child Health Screening Program Manager, at 404 657 2878 or Judith.Kerr@dph.ga.gov

