TO: Birthing Facilities, Pediatricians, and Family/General Practitioners

FROM: Letitia E. Tierney, M.D., J.D.
Commissioner and State Health Officer
Bureau for Public Health

ISSUE DATE: January 2, 2014

RE: Severe Combined Immunodeficiency Disease

EFFECTIVE DATE: March 1, 2014

Effective March 1, 2014, the West Virginia Bureau for Public Health is establishing the expectation that all infants born in a licensed health care facility be screened for severe combined immunodeficiency disease (SCID) or commonly called “Bubble Boy Disease”. This screen is in addition to the 30 heritable disorders already screened for in West Virginia as recommended by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Secretary’s Advisory Committee on Heritable Disorders and Genetic Diseases. This disorder will be screened for using the newborn blood spots already being collected at the hospital before discharge and submitted to the State Laboratory.

The Office of Maternal, Child and Family Health will continue to monitor screen results and act as liaison with the medical community, especially the child’s primary provider, to assure that infants who have a positive result for SCID receive timely evaluation and follow-up. The universal screen for SCID is an essential public health service and maximizes the State’s opportunity for early identification of newborn disorders and subsequent medical intervention.

Questions about this policy can be directed to the Office of Maternal, Child and Family Health, Newborn Screening Program, at (304) 558-5388 or toll free at 1 (800) 642-8522. Questions regarding specimen collection should be directed to the Office of Laboratory Services/State Lab at (304) 558-3530.

LT/vc

cc: Anne Williams
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