



## **NEWBORN METABOLIC SCREENING SYSTEM REDESIGN: PUBLIC INFORMING**

- Newborn metabolic screening is an important public health program.
- This West Virginia program is jointly administered by the Office of Laboratory Services (OLS) and the Office of Maternal, Child and Family Health (OMCFH) within the Bureau for Public Health.
- West Virginia has historically tested for a small number of disorders, with cost associated with distribution of specimen test kits, laboratory services, repeat testing, short-term follow-up, and diagnosis paid for by the OMCFH.
- The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services recently convened an expert panel who subsequently issued recommendations about newborn metabolic screening.
- The recommendations specifically identified a core panel of tests that states across the country should perform.
- West Virginia has historically tested for a small number of disorders.
- All cost associated with distribution of the test specimen kits, laboratory processing, repeat testing, short-term follow-up, diagnosis and treatment has been paid for by MCFH since the inception of the program.
- The OLS will be gradually expanding the number of tests performed on West Virginia newborns.
- The first expansion of the test panel will occur July 1, 2007, and includes the addition of biotinidase testing.
- As a part of the expansion of the test panel, each birthing facility will be charged \$45.00 for processing lab specimens, repeat testing, short term follow-up, tracking and medical coordination necessary for diagnoses for each live birth. It is expected that birth facilities will recover costs incurred through appropriate third party payment processes.
- The initial charge of \$45.00 includes any necessary repeat specimen testing.
- In 2008, West Virginia will offer screening for all metabolic disorders recommended by the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Heritable Disorders and Genetic Diseases in Newborns and Children, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.