

May 17, 2021

ATTENTION

We are writing to notify you of the recent change for thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH) newborn screening for Low Birth Weight (LBW) infants weighing 2500 grams or less. Based on the Tennessee Department of Health's recent Genetic Advisory Committee meeting, the weight requirement for LBW infants to be rescreened for TSH at 30 days of life has changed from ≤ 1500 grams to ≤ 2500 grams at birth. Infants weighing ≤ 2500 grams at birth can have a slow rise in their TSH levels resulting in a false negative test result. These infants should have a repeat screen submitted to the state laboratory for analysis optimally at 30 days of life, however if specimen collection occurs between 2 and 6 weeks of life, these will be accepted. Infants with Congenital Hypothyroidism who have specimens collected earlier than day of life 30 may still have a delayed rise in TSH whereas infants collected after day of life 30 could already be symptomatic and miss the advantage of earlier detection. If you have any questions or concerns about this change please email the follow-up program at NBS.Health@tn.gov or call 615-532-8462.

Sincerely,

Newborn Screening Follow-Up Program
Division of Family Health and Wellness Tennessee Department of Health