


**To:** Tennessee Birthing Hospitals

**From:** Commissioner Ralph Alvarado, MD, FACP 

**Date:** November 15, 2023

**Subject:** 2024 Newborn Screening Fee Increase

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In order to expand the Tennessee newborn screening panel and align with current testing recommendations, the newborn screening fee will be increasing in 2024.

Mucopolysaccharidosis Type II (MPS II) or Hunter's syndrome is a systemic disorder that results from a deficiency in the iduronate-2-sulfatase enzyme, which can lead to tissue and organ damage, heart and lung impairment, and skeletal abnormalities. MPS II can take two forms, non-neuropathic and neuropathic, the latter of which is more severe with an earlier disease onset, mental impairment, and shorter life expectancy. Babies with either type are asymptomatic at birth, so early detection and intervention is crucial to improving health outcomes for those affected.

In 2022, the genetic advisory committee recommended the addition of MPS II to the Tennessee newborn screening panel, harmonizing with the national Recommended Uniform Screening Panel (RUSP) which lists the disorders for which all infants born in the United States should be screened. Very shortly, the Tennessee newborn screening laboratory will begin method development and validation for the addition of the MPS II test, with anticipated routine screening of all Tennessee newborns by July 2024.

To support this addition, the newborn screening fee of \$165 will increase to \$185. The fee for unsatisfactory samples will increase from \$330 to \$370, which covers the first unsatisfactory submission and any additional repeat specimen submissions. The fee increase will fund the addition of laboratory instrumentation and personnel needed for the additional testing, new test validation and process development, improvements in electronic reporting, and the implementation of a long-term follow-up program that will connect healthcare providers and families with resources and track outcomes.

The fee increase will go into effect for all newborn screening specimens beginning January 1, 2024. We appreciate your cooperation in providing these services for all Tennessee infants.