



BIOCHEMISTRY AND GENETICS BRANCH
LABORATORY SERVICES
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Severe Combined Immunodeficiency (SCID) Testing Implementation Update

The Department of State Health Services (DSHS) continues to prepare for the addition of Severe Combined Immunodeficiency (SCID) to the Texas Newborn Screening Panel. Testing for SCID is anticipated to begin in late 2012.

DSHS will continue to provide information and updates throughout the implementation process.

What is Severe Combined Immunodeficiency (SCID)?

Severe Combined Immunodeficiency (SCID) is a group of genetic disorders characterized by profound defects in the immune system, the body's line of defense against all types of infections. SCID is one of the most serious and life-threatening forms of immune system problems. It can occur in about one in 40,000 to one in 100,000 newborns. Although rare, SCID can be successfully treated if identified early in life. If not treated, most of the affected infants die within the first year of life. SCID will be detected using the same newborn screen specimen collected from a heel stick and tested at the Texas Department of State Health Services Laboratory.

Where can I get information to prepare my facility's information system?

DSHS will provide this information via the NBS Listserv and the Laboratory website as soon as specifications are finalized.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact the Newborn Screening Laboratory at:

Telephone: 1-888-963-7111 X7333

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