



LABORATORY SERVICES &
CLINICAL CARE COORDINATION
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IMPORTANT NOTICE

The Department of State Health Services (DSHS) is pleased to announce the expansion of the Texas Newborn Screening Panel to include secondary conditions of the Recommended Uniform Screening Panel.

Screening is anticipated to begin in mid-2015.

How many conditions will be added to the Texas Newborn Screening Panel?

In Texas, newborn screening is completed for 31 “core” conditions included on the [Recommended Uniform Screening Panel \(RUSP\)](#). The DSHS Laboratory currently screens for 29 of these conditions through blood spot testing, and two are completed as point-of-care tests by healthcare providers. The RUSP is endorsed by the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services. Testing for conditions included on the panel is mandated by [Texas law](#).

With the upcoming expansion, DSHS will begin reporting results for 24 of 26 “secondary” RUSP conditions. As allowed by Texas law, two RUSP secondary conditions, Galactose Epimerase Deficiency and Galactokinase Deficiency, will not be added to the Texas Panel.

What is a secondary condition?

Secondary conditions are believed to be clinically significant, but some may have an unclear natural history or lack appropriate medical therapy that affects long-term outcome. They are detected during screening for core conditions.

Will there be a fee increase?

No additional fees will be assessed by the DSHS Laboratory at this time. In accordance with Texas law, the cost for the entire Newborn Screening Panel will be evaluated as part of a laboratory wide evaluation of fees and services. At that time, the fee may be adjusted.

Will more blood be required to be collected?

No.

How common are the secondary conditions?

Prevalence rates in the United States for some of the conditions are unknown. However, these conditions are generally estimated to be very rare. As an example, Tyrosinemia type II is estimated to occur in ~ 1 in 250,000 births. Other conditions have had only a few known cases worldwide.

Where can I find more information on secondary conditions?

DSHS will continue to provide updates throughout the implementation process. More information at:

- [Texas DSHS Secondary Conditions Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Discretionary Advisory Committee on Heritable Disorders in Newborns and Children](#)
- [Baby's First Test](#)

Questions? Contact the Texas DSHS Newborn Screening Laboratory:

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