

Dear Health Care Provider,

RE: Changes to the New York Newborn Screening Program's algorithm for Cystic Fibrosis screening

Please be advised that as of March 8th, 2010, a number of changes to the initial immunoreactive trypsinogen (IRT) testing algorithm have been adopted by the New York State Newborn Screening Program. These changes were made to lower the false positive rates of our referrals.

The changes are listed below:

- 1) Those specimens collected on a newborn's date of birth (<24 hours of age) will not be referred for an elevated IRT level as there is substantial evidence showing that such specimens have falsely elevated IRT values. We will however continue to test specimens with an elevated IRT value, irrespective of age at which sample was collected, for mutations, and those identified as having a mutation(s) will be referred.
- 2) IRT elevated referrals will now be identified using a 0.1% cutoff which will be based on the most current 10 day set of IRT values.

Essential to this algorithm change is the receipt of a second filter paper specimen taken at >24 hours of age as is already required by the program.

Thank you for your cooperation in making New York State's Newborn Screening Program the best it can be. Questions can be directed to our main telephone number 518-473-7552.

Sincerely,

Michele Caggana, Sc.D., FACMG
Director,
Newborn Screening Program