

November 4, 2022

Dear Laboratory Manager,

The Newborn Screening Program at the Public Health Laboratory is on track to start screening for cytomegalovirus (CMV) in early 2023. Babies infected with CMV in utero (congenital CMV) are at risk for multiple health problems including hearing loss and developmental delay. Only 10% of babies with congenital CMV have evidence of problems at birth, but another 10-15% may develop hearing loss by early childhood. Early recognition and intervention may improve outcomes, which is why CMV was added to the newborn screening panel.

If CMV is found in the dried bloodspot, urine testing for CMV by PCR is recommended. Urine specimens need to be collected before 21 days of age to distinguish between congenital infection and CMV acquired after birth through breastfeeding or contact with a person shedding the virus. MDH staff will notify the clinic caring for the baby when CMV is detected on screening and recommend a bagged urine sample for PCR testing. We anticipate 250-300 newborns every year may undergo urine testing for CMV.

We are giving you an early notice so that you can either verify you have adequate capacity for in-house CMV PCR testing or can arrange for these tests to be performed by a send-out facility.

MDH will be partnering with performing laboratories to establish electronic lab reporting for clinical CMV testing. If you perform this testing in-house, you should expect communication regarding interface mapping in the coming weeks.

Below is a list of laboratories that, to our knowledge, offer urine CMV PCR testing. If your lab performs this testing and is not listed, please contact me.

- ARUP Laboratories
- Labcorp
- Mayo Medical Laboratories
- M Health Fairview Reference Laboratories
- Quest Diagnostics

More detailed information regarding newborn screening for CMV will be sent to you as we approach the implementation date. If you have questions in the interim, please contact me.

Sincerely,



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