Volume 7, Issue 3 July 2012

State of Tennessee Department of Health

Newborn Screening Newsletter

http://health.state.tn.us/NBS/index.htm

Newborn Screening Follow Up
Phone: 615-532-8462
Fax: 615-532-8555

No Plastic Bags—Shipment of Dried Blood Spots

Due to recent multiple occurrences of specimens being sent to the lab in plastic bags the TDH would like to review the policy for shipment of specimens. Please see the excerpt below.

After the specimen has had time to dry for at least 3 hours, close the protective flap over the top of the blood spots. **DO NOT** tape the flap closed or fold the form. The biohazard label should be placed on the outside of the flap of the form. Place the form in a paper envelope labeled "Dried Clinical Specimen." If you are sending more than one form, rotate the forms 180 degrees so that the blood spots are not stacked directly over one another but are alternated. **DO NOT** place the forms in any form of a plastic sealed bag. This includes poly bags, zip lock bags, plasticene envelopes, or plastic shipping bags. Mail or transport the specimen to the Tennessee Department of Health's Laboratory in Nashville within 24 hours of collection.

For further information please go to: http://health.state.tn.us/lab/Directory/Section4.pdf

Upcoming State Holidays

- Jul 04: Independence Day
- Sep 03: Labor Day

Important Newborn Screening Phone Numbers at a Glance

NBS F/U - Metabolic & Hearing
Ph 615-532-8462
Toll Free 855-202-1357
Fax 615-532-8555

Filter Papers
Ph 615-262-6391
Fax 615-262-6455

ICD9 Codes
Ph 615-262-6300

NBS State Laboratory
Ph 615-262-6473
Fax 615-262-6447

Billing
Ph 615-262-6300
Fax 615-262-6396

Voice Response System
615-262-3041
866-355-6132

Critical Congenital Heart Disease Screening

In the fall of 2011, the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services determined that significant scientific evidence existed to warrant adding Critical Congenital Heart Disease (CCHD) screening by pulse oximetry to the national newborn screening panel. This was supported by the American Heart Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American College of Cardiology.

On March 13, 2012, Governor Bill Haslam signed a bill into law requiring Tennessee to develop a plan to screen for critical congenital heart disease using pulse oximetry.

The Tennessee Department of Health along with the Genetics Advisory Committee is currently developing educational material and resources to assist hospitals and delivering practitioners in the implementation of screening across the state for all newborns born in Tennessee. Plans are to begin January 1, 2013.

Congenital heart disease (CHD) is the most common birth defect and may be detected during either the prenatal or postnatal period. Failing to detect CCHD while in the nursery may lead to serious events such as cardiogenic shock or death. Early detection by pulse oximetry can potentially improve the prognosis and decrease the mortality and morbidity rate of affected infants.

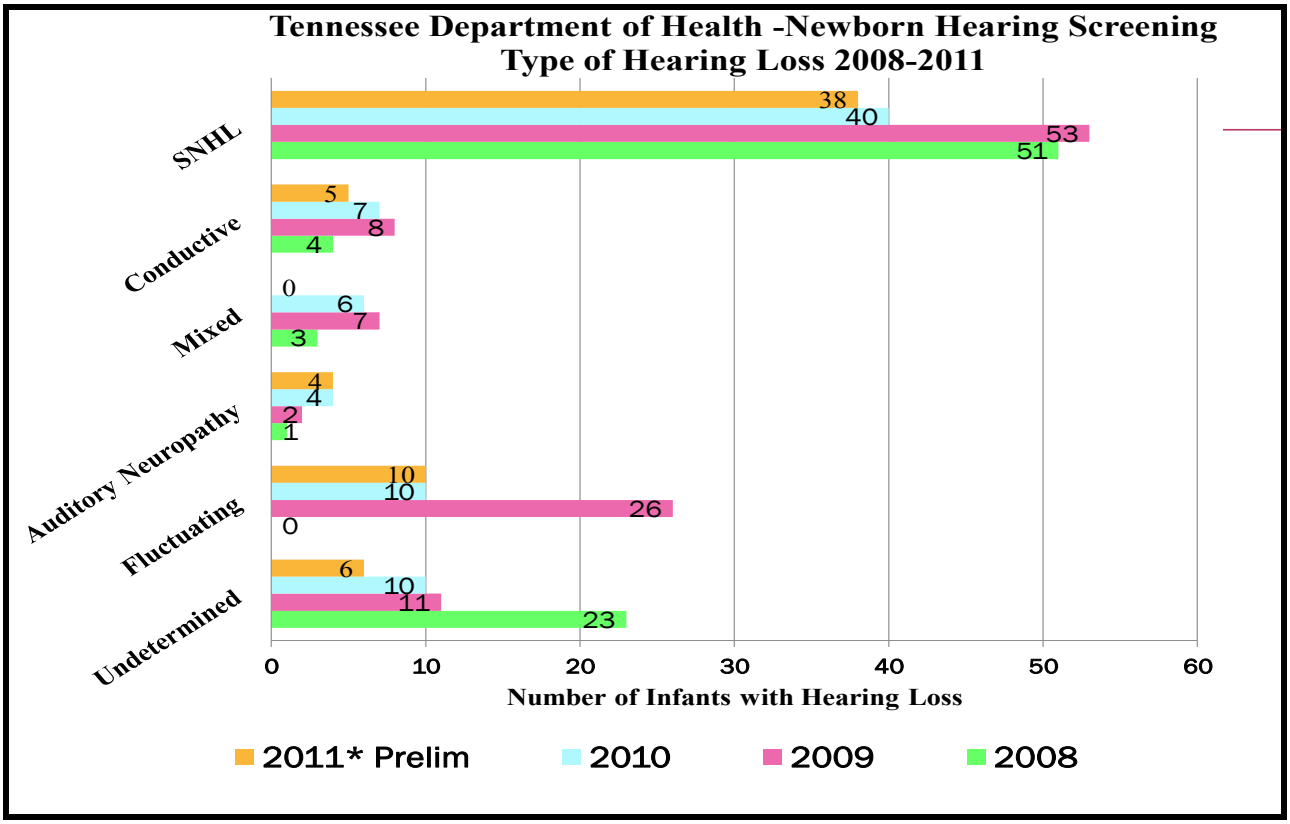
This will be a point of care testing that will be done at the hospital/birthing center. The pulse oximeter is a noninvasive test. While this screening will not identify all infants born with heart defects, significant evidence shows that it has proven successful in detecting some forms of CCHD in the newborn prior to discharge.

The Newborn Hearing Screen Task Force Meeting was held on April 5, 2012. The following are the highlights from the meeting:

- The majority of our hospitals screen 95-99% of all infants born.
- Sensorineural Hearing Loss (SNHL) is the largest type of hearing loss reported.
- Total Infants with Confirmed Hearing Loss (all types):
  2008 = 82; 2009 = 107; 2010 = 77; 2011= 63 (preliminary count)
- Follow-up reports processed:
  2010 = 14,722; 2011 = 12,587

Goals:

- Increase awareness of the need to report hearing f/u by physicians and audiologists to decrease our lost to f/u.
- Implement web based access for hospitals and audiologists to enter hearing results.



TN Hands & Voices (H&V)
(http://tnhandsandvoices.org)
State Chapter

A parent driven, non-profit organization dedicated to providing unbiased support to families with children who are deaf or hard of hearing. Recent successful 2012 family events include the "Deaf/Hard of Hearing Family Spring Fling" held April 21st in Memphis and a "Hands & Voices Gathering" took place at the Nashville Zoo April 22nd.

The upcoming "Summer Picnic" activity will be August 18th in Knoxville. Chattanooga is working towards a goal of a H&V group and hope to have a meeting in July.