

STATE OF COLORADO

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Dedicated to protecting and improving the health and environment of the people of Colorado

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Colorado Department
of Public Health
and Environment

July 16, 2012

Re: Newborn Screening Sickle Cell Trait Testing

To Whom It May Concern,

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) Newborn Screening Laboratory has received a number of phone calls from parents and providers regarding the 2009-10 NCAA recommendation that parents provide confirmation of sickle cell trait status of student athletes to its member colleges and universities.

The following information regarding sickle cell trait screening at the CDPHE Newborn Screening Laboratory is available:

- The CDPHE Newborn Screening Laboratory began screening Colorado newborns for hemoglobinopathies (or hemoglobin disorders), to include sickle cell, in 1981. The current laboratory information system prohibits access to testing records prior to 2006.
- Parents or students are encouraged to contact their pediatrician's office or primary care physician, for medical records pertaining to sickle cell newborn screening results. If a repeat test is needed, primary care physicians will have a list of laboratories known to test for this trait in adolescent/young adult patients.
- The sickle cell test on newborns at the CDPHE Laboratory is considered to be a "screening" test rather than a "confirmation" test.
- A negative newborn screening result for hemoglobinopathies ("All tests normal" or "Normal") is consistent with a negative sickle cell trait result.

Sincerely,

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