
To: Vermont Health Care Providers, Nurses, Midwives, and Hospital Partners
From: Vermont Newborn Screening Program (NBS), Vermont Department of Health
Date: December 19, 2023
Re: Upcoming Change to Vermont Clinical Follow-up Process

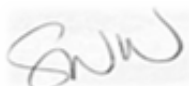
On January 1, 2024, the [Vermont Newborn Screening Program](#) (NBS) will shift all clinical follow-up services to the [New England Newborn Screening Program \(NENSP\)](#). This change was identified as a priority for NBS to ensure continuity and quality of operations during events such as the COVID-19 public health emergency. The NBS fee will not change.

Background: Vermont NBS staff currently provide all follow-up services. Follow-up services include the initial contact made on out-of-range screening results, coordination with specialists when diagnostic testing or referral is required, follow-up calls when repeat screening is overdue, and to obtain the documentation of a final diagnosis or resolution. The [New England Newborn Screening Program \(NENSP\)](#), part of the UMass Chan Medical School, provides laboratory services for Vermont and most of New England. NENSP already provides follow-up coverage for Vermont's NBS program on an as needed basis, including most of the services listed above.

Additional benefits of this model change include:

- Direct connections to expert clinical advice and on-staff physicians
- Follow-up from lab staff who specialize in specific disorder areas
- Enhanced NBS staff capacity for other programmatic activities, such as family engagement projects, provider education, statewide systems and infrastructure projects, quality assurance and quality improvement, and other provider support

Vermont NBS staff will be available throughout this transition and will be actively supporting new projects to enhance screening across the state. Vermont hospitals and providers will continue to receive prompt communication and guidance about screening results for their patients, and we expect minimal disruption or inconvenience to clinical partners.



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