

STATE OF NEBRASKA CLASS SPECIFICATION
INHERITED DISEASES CLINICAL SPECIALIST

EST: 05/20
CLASS CODE: G11630

DESCRIPTION: Under general direction, administers the Newborn Screening Program. Ensure all newborn children in the State of Nebraska are screened and tested for specific diseases, identified through legislation. Notifies, directs, and follows up with direct physicians, nurses, laboratory, hospital personnel and parents on abnormal, positive, and inconclusive results to ensure newborn children receive the appropriate tests, diagnosis, and treatment. Performs related work as assigned.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS: (A position is assigned to this class based on the scope and level of work performed as outlined below.)

N/A

EXAMPLES OF WORK: (A position may not be assigned all the duties listed, nor do these examples include all the duties that may be assigned.)

Directs physicians, nurses, laboratory personnel and hospital personnel to immediate and appropriate actions as a result of newborn screening (NBS) result. Results must be communicated to primary healthcare providers, specialists and sometimes families immediately to avoid long-term health consequences.

Utilize independent decision making when situations occur that fall outside of usual newborn screening protocols. Follows the infant until an appropriate diagnosis has been made or ruled out. Evaluate results to ensure that the appropriate testing has been done and that the correct interpretations have been made.

Interpret laboratory values and communicate findings accurately, quickly, and efficiently to clinical providers and parents. Assign cut off values and implement follow-up protocols, procedures, and practices for newborn screening disorders. Facilitate and coordinate communication between the screening laboratory, and clinical providers.

Monitor for missing newborn screening results. Direct physicians, nurses, and parent(s) to ensure that a newborn screen is collected immediately. Notify physicians and hospital administrators when a newborn is discharged without a newborn screening specimen collected. Prepare correspondence for parent(s) when an infant is born out of a hospital to ensure compliance with state law. Notify county attorneys about parent refusals to comply with state law, and work with legal representatives and other agencies to ensure that a newborn screening specimen is collected.

Follow-up on specimens that are collected after a transfusion. Run daily reports to ensure that the program was informed of all abnormal results and to detect specimens collected after transfusions. Evaluate timing of specimen collection in relation to when transfusions occurred. Determine the accuracy of transfusion information provided on newborn screening collection card and if there was an in utero transfusion.

Notify and follow up on unsatisfactory specimens and specimens drawn when baby is less than 24 hours of age.

Creates data collection systems, and continuously collects and tracks data regarding notifications, follow up, diagnoses, and interventions. Analyzes data to detect patterns, mainly as related to parts of the system that may require improvement. Reports to the Newborn Metabolic Screening Advisory Committee, screening lab, hospitals, healthcare providers, federal partners, etc.

G11630 – INHERITED DISEASES CLINICAL SPECIALIST (continued)

Directs, advises, and informs out-of-state laboratory and program staff regarding Nebraska statutes, regulations, and protocols when a child's provider is out of state. Directs and ensures compliance in obtaining additional testing as mandated by Nebraska statute when infants are born in Nebraska but screened in other states.

Determines and reports public health diagnostic classifications of infants with confirmed disorders for utilization of the program, national-level data collection, and comparison to other programs.

Develops written material, program-specific recording tools, and collaborates on follow up algorithms when new diseases are added, or screening methods change.

Represents Nebraska and presents at national meetings, workgroup conference calls, grand rounds, advisory committee meetings, pediatric conferences, etc.

Advise and interpret state law and regulations. Provide evidence, testify in court/and or provide deposition about state statute, state regulations and communication with parents.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES REQUIRED: (These are needed to perform the work assigned.)

Knowledge of: newborn screening principles, methods and procedures; and training in biochemistry and or genetics pertaining to human metabolic, immunologic, endocrine, and other genetic disorders; and/or experience with interpretation of laboratory testing results related to human metabolic, immunologic, endocrine, and other genetic disorders.

Skill in: working with and contributing to complex IT environments. Analyzing large data sets to identify possibly clinically significant outliers that are of importance to the program and the clinical laboratory; researching and evaluating complex problems and review related information

Ability to: quickly and accurately recognize time-critical results and take the correct action to alert clinical providers such as primary care providers, pediatric subspecialists, caregivers of patients, and help communicate the initiation of intervention; communicate complex human genetic, endocrine, and immunologic principles into simple language to explain complex laboratory findings to patients and families; research and evaluate medical and scientific literature; design, layout, and use educational and informational material related to newborn screening, including Physician ACT sheets.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: (Applicants will be screened for possession of these qualifications. Applicants who need accommodation in the selection process should request this in advance.)

Bachelor's Degree in lab science, nursing, or related field AND two years of relevant formal training and/or experience. An equivalent combination of six years relevant education and experience may be substituted as appropriate.

SPECIAL NOTES:

Positions in this class may require an employee to possess a valid driver's license or the ability to provide independent authorized transportation.

G11630 – INHERITED DISEASES CLINICAL SPECIALIST (continued)

Positions in this class may require an employee to be in an “on call” status on a regular and/or reoccurring basis.

Regular overnight and/or day travel outside the city of residence may be required of incumbents in this job.

State agencies are responsible to evaluate each of their positions to determine their individual overtime eligibility status as required by the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA).