



BIOCHEMISTRY AND GENETICS BRANCH
LABORATORY SERVICES
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CLARIFICATION REGARDING LETTER SENT TO NEWBORN SCREENING SUBMITTERS

Recently, a letter was sent from the DSHS Laboratory Director to submitting facilities indicating that the DSHS Laboratory would no longer be offering certain laboratory tests after October 1, 2012.

To clarify some of the information provided in that letter:

- The DSHS Laboratory ***will continue to perform Newborn Screening tests.***
- Phenylketonuria (PKU) remains a part of the Newborn Screening panel and will still be tested.
- Full Gene Sequencing for Phenylketonuria (PKU), which was a confirmatory test offered separately as a fee for service test, will be discontinued.

*Please [see attached for a copy of original letter.](#)

Reminder: In 1965, the Texas Department of Health began screening newborns for Phenylketonuria. This was the first test of what would become the “newborn screen.” Due to the fact that Phenylketonuria was the one and only disorder that was screened for at that time, the Newborn Screen is often referred to as “the PKU”. However, today, Phenylketonuria is ***one*** of the 28 disorders in the Texas newborn screening panel.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact the Newborn Screening Laboratory at:

Telephone: 1-888-963-7111 x3198

Email: NewbornScreeningLab@dshs.state.tx.us