

DATE:	2021 October 18
TO:	All Zones
FROM:	Genetics and Genomics - Newborn Screening Laboratory
RE:	Methodology Change for Severe Combined Immune Deficiency (SCID) Newborn Screening

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Key Message

- Effective October 3, 2021 there will be a change to the methodology for SCID newborn screening.
- Currently T-cell receptor excision circle (TREC) values are measured and the value is reported on the newborn metabolic screen. Absent or low TREC values result in an abnormal newborn result requiring immediate follow up with a pediatric immunologist. The new methodology will use multiples of the median (MoM). MoM values will not be reported on the result. Results will be reported as abnormal, indeterminate or normal.
- This change is being implemented to improve the accuracy of the TREC quantification, and to allow for better comparison of TREC values between testing labs.

How this will impact you

- There are no changes to the ordering, transportation or processing of newborn screen cards.
- There are no changes to the reporting of critical SCID newborn screen results.
- This change in methodology is expected to decrease false positive newborn screens for SCID, while maintaining detection of newborns with biologically low levels of TREC.

Action Required

- No action required

Effective **October 3, 2021**

Questions/Concerns

- Newborn Metabolic Screening Genetic Counsellors, 780-407-7907

Approved by

- Dr. Dennis Bulman, Medical/Scientific Director, Genetics & Genomics, APL
- Dr. Carolyn O'Hara, Chief Medical Laboratory Officer (Interim), APL