



Department of Health

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[www.health.ri.gov](http://www.health.ri.gov)

June 22, 2020

Dear Colleague:

On July 1, 2020, the Rhode Island Newborn Screening Program will begin screening for one additional condition. This change is consistent with a national trend toward expanded newborn screening made possible by advances in screening technology and treatment.

The new condition, Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA), is a genetic disorder that affects the control of muscle movement.

Primary care providers whose patients screen positive for this condition will be contacted directly by the Newborn Screening Coordinator at the VNA of Care New England and will receive a fact sheet about the results. The fact sheet also includes information about the condition, immediate actions for pediatricians to take, and resources for further information.

Staff at the Hasbro Children's Hospital, Divisions of Genetics and Neurology, are available to evaluate infants who have positive newborn screening results, do confirmatory testing and treatment when indicated, and provide genetic counseling. They also serve as a resource for primary care providers and for families who are affected by this condition.

If you have any questions, please contact the Rhode Island Department of Health Newborn Screening Program Manager Emily Eisenstein at 401-222-5924 or the VNA of Care New England Newborn Screening Nurse Coordinator Karen Lemke at 401-921-7619.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nicole Alexander-Scott".

Nicole Alexander-Scott, MD, MPH  
Director of Health  
Rhode Island Department of Health



State of Rhode Island