

# WA State Newborn Screening: A History

1967

Washington State legislature declares public health policy to make every effort to detect as early as feasible and to prevent where possible phenylketonuria (PKU) and other preventable heritable disorders leading to developmental delays or physical defects.

1977

Testing for Congenital Hypothyroidism begins.

1984

Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia is added to the Washington state Newborn Screening (NBS) screening panel.

1985

Newborn Screening laboratory moves from Smith Tower in downtown Seattle to the Public Health Laboratory (PHL) in Shoreline.



1991

Washington State begins testing for Sickle Cell Disease and other hemoglobinopathies.

2004

Biotinidase Deficiency, Homocystinuria, Maple Syrup Urine Disease, Galactosemia, and MCAD Deficiency are added to the Washington State NBS screening panel.

2006

Screening for Cystic Fibrosis begins.



2007

Washington State Legislature passes legislation to increase the NBS clinic fee from \$3.50/baby to \$8.40/baby. This money funds specialty clinics to provide treatment services for those with defined NBS disorders. The fee is also used to support organizations conducting community outreach, education, and adult support for sickle cell disease. (RCW 70.83.030)

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2008

Expansion of tandem mass spectrometry allows addition of 15 disorders to Washington State NBS panel.

2014

Washington State legislation mandates NBS testing for ALL babies born in Washington State in any setting, including birth facilities and home births.

Severe combined immunodeficiency (SCID) is added to the WA State NBS panel.

2018

NBS wing of the PHL is remodeled to add a tandem mass spectrometry laboratory, a DNA testing suite, an equipment room, and high-density storage.

X-Linked Adrenoleukodystrophy is added to Washington's NBS screening panel.



2019

Screening for Mucopolysaccharidosis Type-I and Pompe Disease in babies born in Washington State begins.

NBS Laboratory becomes a regional laboratory, receiving, and testing NBS specimens in partnership with the Hawaii Department of Health.

2020

Testing for Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) begins.

2021

Washington State begins receiving and testing Idaho newborn screening specimens in partnership with the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare.

2022

Washington State hosts the annual national Newborn Screening Symposium sponsored by the Association of Public Health Laboratories, October 16th - October 20th.



Newborn Screening: saving lives for more than 50 years!