



Scott Harris, M.D., M.P.H.
STATE HEALTH OFFICER

April 8, 2025

Dear Alabama Newborn Screening Providers:

Subject: HIPAA and Newborn Screening Information

The exchange of information regarding newborn screening is permissible under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) without patient authorization if the disclosure is required by law or if the disclosure is required for public health activities. Disclosures regarding newborn screening, including hearing screening results, fall into both categories.

Alabama law requires that health care providers report all results of the newborns tested to the Alabama Department of Public Health. Ala. Admin. Code r. 420-10-1.04(2). Therefore, providers must continue reporting newborn screening results to the Alabama Department of Public Health pursuant to state law. HIPAA regulations do not pre-empt state laws “for the conduct of public health surveillance, investigation, or intervention.” 45 CFR 160.203(a)(2)(c).

Newborn screening information can be released to the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) pursuant to the HIPAA exceptions for public health activities. ADPH is a public health authority as defined by HIPAA. 45 CFR §164.501. The Federal HIPAA Privacy Rule provides that covered entities may disclose, without individual authorization, protected health information (PHI) to public health authorities for certain public health activities, 45 CFR 164.512(a) and (b). ADPH is a public health authority authorized by law to receive newborn testing results for the purpose of preventing and controlling disease, including, but not limited to, public health surveillance, investigations, and interventions.

If you have any concerns or questions regarding these matters, please do not hesitate to contact me at 334-206-5209 or pamela.kendrick@adph.state.al.us.

Sincerely,

Pamela Kendrick, CHPC
Privacy Officer