



Thomas J. Vilsack
Governor

Sally J. Pederson
Lt. Governor

HIPAA Privacy Rule and the Release of Medical Information to the Iowa Neonatal Metabolic Screening Program

The Privacy Rule for the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) of 1996 became effective in 1998. The purpose of this letter is to assure you and your staff that the Privacy Rule permits the Iowa Neonatal Metabolic Screening Program personnel to request patient and physician information for the purpose of ensuring that a newborn receives a metabolic screen or that a newborn with abnormal screening results receives confirmatory testing and any necessary treatment.


The Iowa Neonatal Metabolic Screening Program (INMSP) is a program of the Iowa Department of Public Health. The University Hygienic Laboratory is the designated newborn screening laboratory and personnel within the University of Iowa Department of Pediatrics, Divisions of Genetics, Endocrine, Hematology and Pulmonology provide consultation and follow-up.

The INMSP provides comprehensive newborn screening services for hereditary and congenital disorders pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 136A and 641 Iowa Administrative Code (IAC) section 4.3. These provisions of law are not preempted by HIPAA. A hospital, clinic, or health care provider is not required to obtain consent or authorization from a patient or parent prior to releasing information to Iowa Neonatal Metabolic Screening Program personnel

The Iowa Department of Public Health appreciates your cooperation and ongoing partnership in the effort to ensure that all newborns are screened through INMSP and receive the necessary confirmatory testing and applicable treatment.

If you have any questions, please contact Kimberly Noble Piper at 515-281-6466 or kpiper@idph.state.ia.us.

Sincerely,



Mary Mincer Hansen, R.N., PhD
Director

Promoting and protecting the health of Iowans

Lucas State Office Building, 321 E. 12th Street, Des Moines, IA 50319-0075 • 515-281-7689 • www.idph.state.ia.us

DEAF RELAY (Hearing or Speech Impaired) 711 or 1 800-735-2942

To see the progress Iowa is making visit www.resultsiowa.org