

To: Joseph Dwortzky, City Solicitor **Date:** 08/23/94
From: Jeanne Reedy, Executive Assistant, Records Dept.
Subject: Proposed Regulations Regarding Reporting of
Preschool Immunizations, Serology on
Maternal/Cord Blood for Congenital Syphilis

The above Regulations, promulgated by the Department of Public Health, were received in the Department of Records on 07/20/94 for filing and advertising.

Inasmuch as there were no requests for hearings, these Regulations became effective midnight, 08/19/94.

CC: Estelle B. Richman, Health Commissioner

CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
OFFICE OF THE HEALTH COMMISSIONER

MEMORANDUM

July 13, 1994

TO : V. Chapman-Smith, Commissioner
Department of Records

FROM : *Estelle B. Richman*
Estelle B. Richman, Commissioner

SUBJECT : REGULATIONS FOR APPROVAL

Enclosed please find copies of two regulations approved by the Board of Health and Law Department. It is my understanding that these regulations need to be approved by the Records Department and published for public response.

Will you please advise Kimberley Imperiale of my office (686-5006) when the regulations can be considered legal. Thank you.

EBR:dl

cc: Susan Pingree, Chief of Staff
Robert Levenson, Director, Division of Disease Control
Charlotte Nicholas, Chief Deputy City Solicitor
Kimberley Imperiale, Assistant Health Commissioner
Marta Lippin, Records Department

DEPARTMENT OF RECORDS
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APPROVED:

BOARD OF HEALTH: 06/02/92

LAW DEPARTMENT: _____

RECORDS DEPT: _____

CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
CHS, INFECTIOUS DISEASE CONTROL
DIVISION OF DISEASE CONTROL

REGULATIONS
SEROLOGY ON MATERNAL/CORD BLOOD FOR CONGENITAL SYPHILIS

WHEREAS, there has been a marked increase in reported early syphilis cases from 1985 (696 cases) to 1991 (4,736 cases) -- a more than six-fold increase; and

WHEREAS, there has been a simultaneous increase in reported congenital syphilis during the same period (5 cases in 1985 to 301 cases in 1991); and

WHEREAS, congenital syphilis causes stillbirth and significant morbidity and long-term sequelae to the newborn; and

PURSUANT to Section 5-301(b) of the Home Rule Charter and Sections 6-201, 6-202, 6-203, 6-208 and 6-402(4)(b) of the Philadelphia Code, the following Regulation is promulgated by the Board of Health to be added in the appropriate subsection to the:

- I. REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE CONTROL OF COMMUNICABLE AND NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES AND CONDITIONS,
 8. **Venereal Diseases,**
 - (f) Prenatal Examination,
 - (3) Maternal/Cord Blood Serology for Congenital Syphilis; and
- II. REGULATIONS FOR MATERNITY AND NEWBORN SERVICES,
 5. **Care of Newborn Infants,**
 - (a) Delivery Room Care,
 - (14) Examination of Infant,
 - (f) Maternal/Cord Blood Serology for Congenital Syphilis.

The Regulation is to read as follows:

I. REGULATION GOVERNING THE CONTROL OF COMMUNICABLE AND
NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

8. *Venereal Diseases*

(f) Prenatal Examination

(1) Every physician and all other persons permitted by law to attend, treat or examine any pregnant woman for conditions relating to pregnancy during the time of gestation or at delivery, shall take or cause to be taken, a sample of blood of such woman at the time of first examination and again during the second and/or third trimester of gestation and shall submit such samples to an approved laboratory for an approved serological test for syphilis. All persons permitted by law to attend pregnant women, but not permitted by law to take blood samples, shall likewise cause samples of the blood of every such pregnant woman attended by them to be taken by a duly licensed physician or practitioner of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and to be submitted to an approved laboratory for an approved serologic test unless the woman dissents. If the pregnant woman objects, it shall be the duty of the physician or practitioner to explain to her the desirability of such tests.

(2) In reporting every birth and fetal death, physicians and others required to make such reports shall state upon these certificates whether the above required blood tests were made, and if so, the dates of the tests but not the results of the tests. If the tests were not made, it shall be stated whether they were not made because, in the opinion of the physician or practitioner, the tests were not advisable or because the woman objected.

II. REGULATION FOR MATERNITY AND NEWBORN SERVICES

5. *Care of Newborn Infants*

(a) Delivery Room Care

(14) Examination of Infant

(f) Maternal/Cord Blood Serology for Congenital Syphilis

(1) Every physician or licensed birth attendant who delivers a newborn whether alive or dead after 22 weeks gestation, shall acquire body blood from the mother and submit it to an approved laboratory for standard serological tests for syphilis. If at the time of birth, a sample of blood from the umbilical cord is obtained and tested for syphilis, the requirement to test the mother's blood shall be waived, unless the cord blood test is determined to be positive;

- (2) Specimens shall be taken from the mother upon entry to the responsible institution for the purpose of delivery, or if a specimen taken from the cord, it shall be taken immediately after birth. Both blood taken from the mother in response to a positive cord blood test must be drawn and submitted for testing within 24 hours of receipt of the cord blood test result;
- (3) The date and time of maternal and/or cord blood collection and the test results of such specimens shall be recorded in the infant's permanent health record prior to discharge from the institution. The same information shall be entered in the mother's permanent health record. Bloods submitted for testing must be marked clearly as Maternal/Delivery, Cord or Newborn in order to facilitate reporting to the Philadelphia Department of Public Health's (PDPHs) Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD) Control Program within 24 hours of receipt of test results.
- (4) Approved laboratories shall perform standard quantitative serologic tests for syphilis titred to endpoint on all Maternal/Delivery, Cord and Newborn specimens of blood received. All results must be reported to the responsible Physician/Licensed Birth Attendant within 24 hours of completion of testing. All positive results must be reported to the PDPH STD Control Program by telephone or FAX within 24 hours of completion of testing and must include an appropriate designation, i.e. Maternal/Delivery, Cord, Newborn.
- (5) The responsible Physician/Licensed Birth Attendant shall
 - (a) collect, label, submit specimens and assure that test results are recorded as specified in the Regulation;
 - (b) report all suspected or confirmed cases of congenital syphilis by telephone to the PDPH STD Control Program within 24 hours of receipt of the test results; and
 - (c) work in cooperation with designated public health investigators to assure that diagnosis, therapy and any necessary follow-up meet current standards of care.

This Regulation will expire on June 30, 1997.

(92gmSTD3)

DEPARTMENT OF REGENERATION
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