

MEMORANDUM

City of Philadelphia

Date: 7-7-97

To: Stephanie L. Franklin-Suber, City Solicitor

From: Jeanne Reedy, Executive Assistant, Records Dept. *J. Reedy*

Subject: Amendments to the Regulations Governing the Control of Communicable and Non-Communicable Diseases and Conditions, and to the Regulations for Maternity and Newborn Services.

The above Amendments, promulgated by The Health Department were received in the Department of Records on 6-3-97 for filing and advertising. Inasmuch as there were no requests for hearings, these Amendments became effective midnight 7-3-97.

cc: Estelle B. Richman, Commissioner Department of Public Health
Susan Jacobson, Deputy Chief of Staff
John F. Domzalski, Deputy Health Commissioner
Robert Levenson, Director, Division of Disease Control



CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

APPROVED:	
BOARD OF HEALTH	<u>5/13/97</u>
LAW DEPARTMENT:	<u>5/29/97</u>
RECORDS DEPT:	_____

**REGULATIONS
SEROLOGY ON MATERNAL BLOOD FOR CONGENITAL SYPHILIS**

WHEREAS, cases of congenital syphilis continue to occur at unacceptably high levels (63 cases in 1996); and

WHEREAS, this regulation has assisted in early diagnosis and treatment of these newborns; and

WHEREAS, congenital syphilis causes stillbirth and significant morbidity and long-term sequelae to the untreated 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 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 Blood Serology for Congenital Syphilis.

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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 women for any purpose, shall take or cause to be taken, a sample of blood of such women during the visit when a pregnancy is initially determined, and shall submit such samples to an approved laboratory for an approved serological test for syphilis.
 - (2) 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 (including the visit when pregnancy is initially determined) 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.

- (3) 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 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;
- (2) Specimens shall be taken from the mother upon entry to the responsible institution for the purpose of delivery;
- (3) The date and time of maternal 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, 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 serological tests for syphilis titred to endpoint on all Maternal/Delivery, 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.

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- (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.

(gmC:) 4/13/97

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