

NCAA Recommendation that Student-Athletes be Screened for Sickle Cell Disease

Since the end of June the Laboratories Administration has received many calls asking if a student can be screened or obtain a copy of his/her newborn screening results.

Since 1988 all babies born in MD have been screened for sickle cell disease and the parents of those babies confirmed to have the disorder were informed soon after each baby's birth.

The Laboratories Administration's mandate is to screen each newborn for a range of hereditary disorders including sickle cell disease. It currently has neither a mandate nor the resources to screen or look up prior screening results on hundreds or thousands of student athletes.

If this statement of population-based screening at the time of birth is not acceptable to a student's school, then a student can:

- 1) Request the results from the hospital of birth or from his/her own pediatrician; or
- 2) Requesting and bear the cost of re-screening by a private laboratory.