April 3, 2013

RE: Newborn Screening Sickle Cell Trait Testing

To Whom It May Concern,

The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) is now requiring confirmation of sickle cell trait status in Division III student athletes. Confirmation of sickle cell status will be required of all incoming student athletes in the 2013-2014 school years and for all athletes by 2014-2015. Mandatory sickle cell trait screening is already required by the NCAA in Division I and Division II athletes.

The Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) is required to screen each newborn for a range of hereditary disorders including sickle cell disease, but not specifically for sickle cell trait. In addition, the sickle cell test on newborns is considered to be a "screening" test rather than a "confirmation" test. The Office of Newborn Screening has received many calls from parents of student athletes asking to obtain a copy of his/her newborn screening results. ADHS currently has neither a mandate to screen for Sickle Cell trait nor the resources to look up prior screening results on hundreds or thousands of student athletes.

To obtain sickle cell status confirmation, families are encouraged to contact their pediatrician's office or primary care provider, for medical records pertaining to sickle cell newborn screening results. If a repeat test is needed, primary care physicians will have a list of laboratories known to test for this trait in adolescent/young adult patients.

If you have questions or concerns regarding this information, please do not hesitate to contact Brigitte Dufour, case management coordinator at brigitte.dufour@azdhs.gov or (602) 364-1406.

Sincerely,

Victor Waddell
Bureau Chief