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# Newborn Screening Quality Assurance Program

## Second-tier Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia (CAH) Proficiency Testing Program (PT)

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In co-sponsorship with Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL)  
Provided by the Newborn Screening and Molecular Biology Branch  
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### Report Authorization

This report has been reviewed and authorized by Dr. Joanne Mei, Laboratory Chief, Newborn Screening Quality Assurance Program.

### Confidentiality Statement

NSQAP participant information and evaluations are strictly confidential and shared only with individual participants, unless written authorization for release is received.

### Introduction

This report summarizes data collected within the specified reporting period for the Quarter 4, 2018 Second-tier Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia (CAH) Proficiency Testing Program (PT) event. Reports are distributed to all participants, state laboratory directors, and program colleagues by request. The tables within this report provide certification information for the PT specimen panel, statistical analysis reported quantitative data, and the frequency distribution summaries for expected interpretations. An evaluation of your submitted data is attached to this summary.

### Certification of PT Specimens

The dried blood spot (DBS) PT specimens were prepared at 50% hematocrit, with different enrichments of five biomarkers for congenital adrenal hyperplasia (CAH); 17  $\alpha$ -hydroxyprogesterone (17OHP), 4-androstenedione (4AD), cortisol (Cort), 11-deoxycortisol (11D), 21-deoxycortisol (21D). Expected values (sum of endogenous and enrichment values) were determined by EIA (17OHP only) and LC-MS/MS. For determination of the Clinical Assessment (CA) NSQAP applies the formula: clinical ratio =  $([17OHP] + [4AD])/[CORT]$ . A cutoff of 1.0 is used to assess whether the specimen is Within Normal Limits (1) or Outside Normal Limits (2).

Table 1. Expected Values (ng/mL serum) and Expected Clinical Assessments (CA)

Specimen	EIA 17OHP	EIA CA	LC- MS/MS 17OHP	LC- MS/MS 4AD	LC- MS/MS Cort	LC- MS/MS 11D	LC- MS/MS 21D	LC- MS/MS Clinical Rato	LC- MS/MS CA
418A1	9.9	1	11.5	21.5	41.5	51.5	11.5	0.8	1
418A2	95.7	2	81.5	26.5	121.5	21.5	1.5	0.9	1
418A3	110.3	2	91.5	37.5	21.5	6.5	41.5	6.0	2
418A4	95.6	2	91.5	37.5	21.5	6.5	41.5	6.0	2
418A5	51.6	2	51.5	26.5	101.5	11.5	1.5	0.8	1

1 = Within Normal Limits  
 2 = Outside Normal Limits  
 NE = Not Evaluated

## Distribution of PT Specimens

On September 25, 2018, a PT panel of five DBS specimens was distributed seven domestic laboratories and 24 international laboratories.

## Participant Results

### Quantitative Data

We received results from 27 participants by the data reporting deadline. Laboratories were asked to report concentrations of 17OHP, 4AD, Cort, 11D and 21D analyzed by Second-tier tandem mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS) and enzyme immunoassay (EIA) (optional). For the statistical summary analysis, we did not include data that were outside the 99% confidence interval.

All data are presented in units of ng/mL serum. Participants whose methods yield data in nM whole blood units were asked to multiply by the following factors for conversion to serum concentration: 0.66 (17OHP), 0.57 (4AD), 0.72 (CORT), and 0.69 (11D and 21D). Data that are not submitted in the requested units (ng/mL serum) are not accepted. Conversion factors are provided on the CAHPT Data Report Form.

Twenty-seven laboratories reported results using LC-MS/MS. Eighteen of these labs reported EIA results. The expected analyte concentration values were based on CDC expected values. Overall statistics from EIA (Table 2) and LC-MS/MS (Tables 3a-b) methods were combined so as to not identify an individual laboratory.

Table 2. Overall statistics – 17OHP (ng/mL serum) by EIA

Specimen	N	Mean	SD
418A1	17	10.0	3.2
418A2	16	83.6	18.5
418A3	14	94.0	37.8
418A4	18	99.6	35.6
418A5	17	56.4	22.4

Table 3a. Overall statistics – 17OHP, 4AD, Cort, (ng/mL serum) by LC-MS/MS

Specimen	17OHP N	17OHP Mean	17OHP SD	4AD N	4AD Mean	4AD SD	Cort N	Cort Mean	Cort SD
418A1	24	12.69	3.76	24	20.36	4.13	24	40.61	8.83
418A2	26	95.28	23.09	26	28.12	7.31	27	134.93	25.99
418A3	27	109.43	34.88	26	44.43	10.84	26	24.92	7.29
418A4	27	103.91	23.63	26	42.79	9.95	26	23.80	5.17
418A5	26	53.74	15.55	26	25.02	5.75	27	110.90	21.98

Table 3b. Overall statistics –11D, 12D (ng/mL serum) by LC-MS/MS

Specimen	11D N	11D Mean	11D SD	21D N	21D Mean	21D SD
418A1	17	53.82	16.30	17	9.80	4.35
418A2	18	23.37	6.48	15	1.77	3.57
418A3	18	7.91	5.85	17	41.19	11.57
418A4	18	7.77	5.31	18	39.47	9.92
418A5	18	13.63	6.10	14	4.57	12.95

### Qualitative Clinical Assessments

Qualitative assessments may differ by participant because of specific assessment practices. The frequency distribution of participants' Clinical Assessments for screening results is shown in Table 4.

Most programs use a clinical ratio to determine if samples are normal or abnormal. Specimens with a calculated ratio less than the cutoff are considered "within normal limits"; those specimens with a calculated ratio greater than the cutoff are evaluated as "outside normal limits". LC-MS/MS cutoff values are summarized in Table 5.

Table 4. Frequency Distribution of Participants' Clinical Assessments (LC-MS/MS)

Specimen	Within Normal Limits (WNL)	Outside Normal Limits (ONL)	Not Reported
418A1*	17	9	1
418A2	22	5	0
418A3	1	26	0
418A4	0	26	0
418A5	23	4	0

\*Specimen 418A1 was not evaluated due to lack of 80% consensus.

Table 5. LC-MS/MS Clinical Ratio Cutoff Values

Specimen	All Laboratories	Domestic	International
MEAN	1.87	1.30	2.06
MODE	1.00	1.00	2.50
MIN	0.10	0.90	0.10
MAX	9.00	2.50	9.00

## Evaluations

Of the evaluated specimens, participants reported nine False-positive results and one False-negative result based on the LC-MS/MS final Clinical Assessment.

## Future Shipments

The Newborn Screening Quality Assurance Program will ship next quarter's PT specimens for CAHPT on January 15, 2019.

## Direct Inquiries

If you have any comments or questions about CAHPT MS/MS analysis, contact Dr. Joanne V. Mei at 770-488-7945 or by email at <mailto:jvm0@cdc.gov>

For data reporting questions, contact Irene Williams at [nsqapdmt@cdc.gov](mailto:nsqapdmt@cdc.gov)

The content of this report may also be located on our website at:

[https://www.cdc.gov/labstandards/nsgap\\_reports.html](https://www.cdc.gov/labstandards/nsgap_reports.html)

## Acknowledgement

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