

New law creates the Newborn Critical Congenital Heart Disease Screening Program to screen all La. newborns for congenital heart defects (CHDs).

New law provides for definitions.

New law provides legislative intent, indicating that Critical Congenital Heart Disease (CCHD) can cause severe and life-threatening symptoms that require intervention within the first days of life.

New law provides the following findings:

- (1) Early detection of CHDs can decrease mortality and lead to better outcomes for affected children.
- (2) CHDs occur in approximately one in 110 births in the U.S., and that approximately 25% of CHDs are considered CCHD.
- (3) Current methods of screening for CCHD often miss defects that can be detected by pulse oximetry screening, defined as noninvasive test to detect CHDs that estimates the percentage of hemoglobin in blood saturated with oxygen.
- (4) When a screening such as pulse oximetry is performed on a newborn in a birthing facility, it is effective in detecting life-threatening CHDs.
- (5) Many newborn lives can be saved through earlier detection and treatment of CCHD if birthing facilities are required to perform pulse oximetry screening.

New law requires that every birthing facility in La. perform pulse oximetry screening on each newborn before discharge, unless prohibited by the parent or guardian of the newborn.

Effective August 1, 2013.

(Adds R.S. 40:1300.361-1300.363)