



State of Wisconsin
Department of Health Services

Tony Evers, Governor
Kirsten L. Johnson, Secretary

February 17, 2026

Dr. William Rhead
University of Wisconsin-Madison
wrhead@wisc.edu

Zoë Culshaw-Klein, MS student
Medical College of Wisconsin
zculshaw@mcw.edu

Dear Dr. Rhead and Ms. Culshaw-Klein,

Thank you for submitting a nomination to add Krabbe Disease to the newborn screening panel of conditions. We appreciate and share your concern for children and families who are profoundly affected by this condition.

When we receive nominations to add a condition to the Wisconsin panel, we follow a careful process to ensure that they are thoroughly reviewed by doctors and scientific experts in Wisconsin. You can read more about this process, the established criteria, and the committees involved at: [Nominate a Condition for Addition to the Wisconsin Newborn Screening Panel | Wisconsin Department of Health Services](#).

On September 19, 2025, the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Newborn Screening (SACNBS) met via Zoom to review the nomination to add Krabbe Disease to the Wisconsin mandatory newborn screening (NBS) panel. The nomination was reviewed by the NBS Metabolic Subcommittee, consisting of experts who specialize in caring for children with various metabolic disorders, which recommended acceptance, on April 11, 2025, with psychosine levels at or above 10 nmol/L, leading to presentation to the Umbrella Committee meeting, on May 2, 2025, which also recommended acceptance. The SACNBS voted unanimously in favor of adding Krabbe Disease with psychosine levels at or above 10 nmol/L to the Wisconsin NBS panel. Since the submission of that report, the Newborn Screening Program was notified that the laboratory measuring the psychosine levels reports psychosine levels between 2-10 nmol/L, in addition to levels above 10 nmol/L. In light of this information, the NBS Metabolic Subcommittee met for an Ad Hoc meeting on Dec 18, 2025, and voted seven to one to amend the previous recommendation and report results for all infants with a psychosine level equal to or greater than 2 nmol/L. This was followed by an Ad Hoc SACNBS meeting on January 15, 2026. At that meeting, a motion to amend the SACNBS's nomination to add Krabbe Disease to the Wisconsin newborn screening panel for infants with a psychosine level equal to or greater than 2 nmol/L was approved by a vote of six to zero.

Based on the recommendations of the SACNBS, I approve the addition of Krabbe Disease with psychosine levels equal to or greater than 2 nmol/L to the newborn screening panel and will move forward with the administrative rule-making process. You can read more about this process at: [Administrative Rules | Wisconsin Department of Health Services](#).

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Protecting and promoting the health and safety of the people of Wisconsin

Thank you for your contribution to the Wisconsin Newborn Screening Program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kirsten Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the typed name.

Kirsten L. Johnson
Secretary-designee
Department of Health Services

cc: Dr. Norman Fost, MD, MPH
Chair, Secretary's Advisory Committee on Newborn Screening
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Paula Tran, MPH
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