THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20201

MAR 16 2015

Joseph A. Bocchini Jr., MD
Chairperson, Discretionary Advisory Committee
on Heritable Disorders in Newborns and Children
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 18W68
Rockville, Maryland 20857

Dear Dr. Bocchini:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Discretionary Advisory Committee on Heritable Disorders in Newborns and Children's recommendation to facilitate a national dialogue among federal and state stakeholders on the benefits of measuring succinylacetone in dried blood spots to improve the specificity of newborn screening for tyrosinemia type I. The Secretary asked me to respond directly on her behalf. I have reviewed the Committee's recommendation, as well as the report, *Succinylacetone as a Primary Marker to Detect Tyrosinemia Type I in Newborns and Its Measurement by Newborn Screening Programs,* that were enclosed with your letter.

On behalf of the Secretary, I accept the Committee's recommendation. I have asked the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to facilitate a national discussion to address technical and practice issues in measuring succinylacetone for screening newborns. I am also encouraging CDC, working with the Health Resources and Services Administration and others in the Department, to engage key stakeholders to ensure a robust discussion to improve more consistent implementation of screening for this condition. If you would like more information on CDC's plans and activities regarding your recommendation, please contact Dr. Carla Cuthbert at CCuthbert@cdc.gov.

I appreciate the dedication and commitment of the Committee in addressing issues that impact the health of our nation's newborns and children, and we look forward to working together in the future.

Sincerely,

William V. Corr