

## **Hemoglobin C harlem or hemoglobin O arab Trait- For Physicians**

As part of routine newborn screening all babies are tested for sickle cell disease and other hemoglobinopathies. Screening of all specimens is done by isoelectric focusing (IEF). Results are then confirmed by IEF and citrate agar electrophoresis.

Your patient has tested positive for hemoglobin C harlem trait or hemoglobin O arab trait. Our testing methods are unable to distinguish between hemoglobin C harlem, hemoglobin O arab and other variants that migrate in the same region.

Although there is no immediate clinical significance, this information is important for future reproductive decisions of the child and other family members.

### **Possible Newborn Screening Results:**

	Hemoglobin
F	Fetal hemoglobin, present in declining amounts until 6 months after birth
A	Normal adult hemoglobin
B	Hemoglobin Bart's
H	Hemoglobin C Harlem or Hemoglobin O arab

**FA:** Normal newborn hemoglobin pattern

**FAH:** Hemoglobin C Harlem trait OR hemoglobin O arab trait

**FACB:** Hemoglobin C trait with Hemoglobin Bart's (see separate Hemoglobin Bart's information sheet)

### **Follow Up Recommendations:**

Newborn screening cannot make a distinction between Hemoglobin C Harlem and O arab. The baby should have a CBC and hemoglobin electrophoresis to verify the NBS results and to help distinguish between hemoglobin C harlem trait and hemoglobin O arab trait. The testing can be performed anytime after fetal hemoglobin levels normalize, which occurs at approximately 6 months of age.

The family should be offered genetic counseling for parental testing to assess the risk to future pregnancies and to discuss the inheritance of Hemoglobin C.

If you have any further questions, please contact the New Hampshire Newborn Screening Program at (603) 271-4225.

We have enclosed a parent fact sheet for your patient.