

# G6PD Deficiency

## Information for Parents

### What is G6PD?

- G6PD is an enzyme (or a protein) that is found in red blood cells.
- A deficiency in G6PD means that there is less of this enzyme in the red blood cells.
- G6PD Deficiency is genetic, which means it runs in families.

### How do we know that my child has G6PD Deficiency?

- Pennsylvania has a newborn screening program that screens for many different medical conditions.
- A very small amount of your baby's blood was collected at the hospital in the first few days of life.
- Your baby's newborn screen showed us that your baby's red blood cells are a little different than other babies.

### What do we do now?

- When people with G6PD deficiency take certain medications, eat certain foods or have a bad infection, their red blood cells could stop working properly. They could develop anemia until their body starts making more red blood cells.
- Please keep your child away from all medicines and foods on the "NO" list. And look out for signs and symptoms of anemia.
- Please tell healthcare providers in hospitals, emergency rooms, or clinics that your child has G6PD deficiency. This will help them take better care of your child.

## Medications and Foods

### NO (Avoid These)

- Aspirin
- Fava beans
- Certain antibiotics "Sulfa drugs"
- Antimalarial drugs that end in "quine"
- Tonic water
- Moth balls

### Yes (Okay)

- Tylenol = Acetaminophone
- Motrin = Ibuprofen
- Any antibiotic prescribed by your health care provider

### Anemia: Warning Signs

- Paleness
- Fast breathing
- Fast heartbeat
- Jaundice
- Tea-colored urine
- Extreme tiredness