

## Rapid Whole Genome Sequencing in the NICU

Faster diagnosis. Better outcomes.  
Reduced healthcare costs

# Learning objectives

## After completing this webinar, you will be able to:

- Explain the clinical utility of the rWGS test
- List examples of positive health outcomes and cost savings derived from rWGS
- Reference the Blue Shield rWGS medical policy, including criteria to identify babies and children who qualify
- Execute steps needed to implement the test with a qualified patient

This presentation and a link to the recording will be emailed to you within five (5) business days.

# Agenda

- Blue Shield of California medical policy overview
- Rady Children's Institute for Genomic Medicine presentation:
  - Rapid Whole Genome Sequencing in the NICU
- Initial steps to implement rWGS testing for a patient
- Q&A

## Today's presenters



**Erika Allred, MD**  
Rady Children's Institute for  
Genomic Medicine



**David Dimmock, MD**  
Senior Medical Director  
Rady Children's Institute for  
Genomic Medicine



**Christy Moore, MS, LCGC**  
Program Manager,  
Clinical Genetics  
Blue Shield of California

Blue Shield of California Policy:  
Whole Exome and Whole Genome Sequencing for  
Diagnosis of Genetic Disorders

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# Policy overview

Rapid whole exome or rapid whole genome sequencing (rWES or rWGS), with trio testing when possible, may be considered **medically necessary** when **all** the following are met:

- For the evaluation of critically ill infants or children less than 18 years of age
- Hospitalized in neonatal or pediatric intensive care with illness of unknown etiology
- Documentation that supports at least **one** of the following:
  - Multiple congenital anomalies
  - Specific malformations highly suggestive of a genetic etiology
  - Abnormal laboratory test suggests a genetic disease or complex metabolic phenotype
  - Abnormal response to standard therapy for a major underlying condition
  - Significant hypotonia
  - Persistent seizures
  - Infant with high-risk stratification on evaluation for a Brief Resolved Unexplained Event (BRUE) with **one or more** designated conditions (see policy)
  - Significantly abnormal electrocardiogram (ECG), including but not limited to possible channelopathies, arrhythmias, cardiomyopathies, myocarditis or structural heart disease
  - Family history of one or more designated conditions (see policy)
- Documented exclusion of **all** designated conditions (i.e., infection with normal result to therapy, confirmed genetic diagnosis explains illness, hypoxic Ischemic Encephalopathy – see policy for complete list)

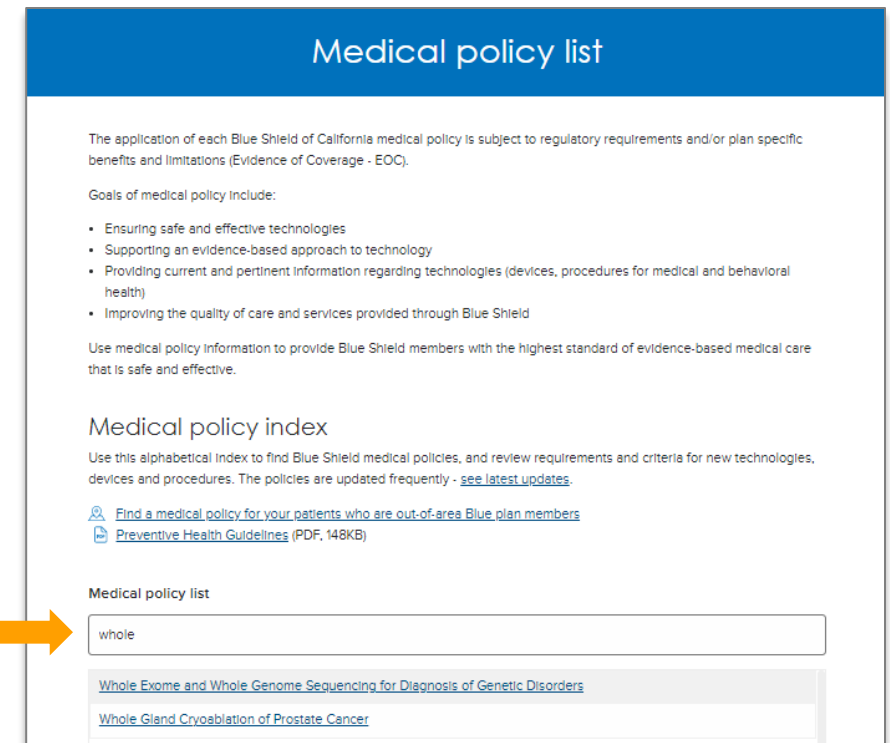
# How to find rWGS medical policy

Blue Shield's medical policy:

**Whole Exome and Whole Genome Sequencing for Diagnosis of Genetic Disorders (12/1/2020).**

To access the medical policy on Provider Connection:

- Go to [blueshieldca.com/provider](https://blueshieldca.com/provider) – you don't need to be logged in to access medical policies
  - Click the [Authorizations](#) from the white navigation bar
  - Click [Policies & Guidelines](#) from the blue navigation bar
  - Click the blue [Medical policies & procedures](#) box
  - Click [Find medical policy for Blue Shield of California plans](#) under the *Medical Policy list*
  - Enter a search term (e.g., "whole" or "genome") in the *Medical policy list* field.
  - Links to any medical policy that aligns with your search will display.



**Medical policy list**

The application of each Blue Shield of California medical policy is subject to regulatory requirements and/or plan specific benefits and limitations (Evidence of Coverage - EOC).

Goals of medical policy include:

- Ensuring safe and effective technologies
- Supporting an evidence-based approach to technology
- Providing current and pertinent information regarding technologies (devices, procedures for medical and behavioral health)
- Improving the quality of care and services provided through Blue Shield

Use medical policy information to provide Blue Shield members with the highest standard of evidence-based medical care that is safe and effective.

**Medical policy index**

Use this alphabetical index to find Blue Shield medical policies, and review requirements and criteria for new technologies, devices and procedures. The policies are updated frequently - [see latest updates](#).

[Find a medical policy for your patients who are out-of-area Blue plan members](#)

[Preventive Health Guidelines \(PDF, 148KB\)](#)

**Medical policy list**

whole

- [Whole Exome and Whole Genome Sequencing for Diagnosis of Genetic Disorders](#)
- [Whole Gland Cryoablation of Prostate Cancer](#)



# Rapid Whole Genome Sequencing in the NICU

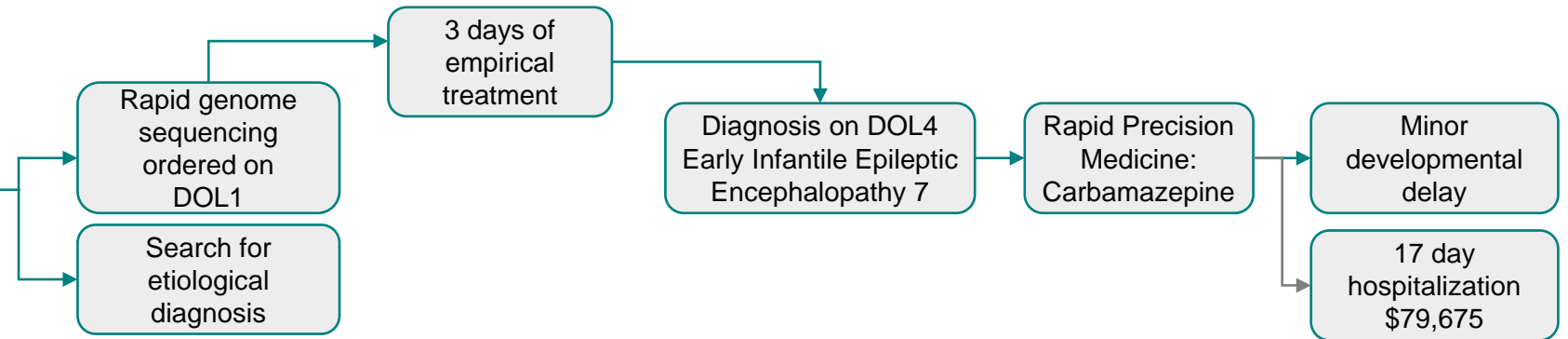
Faster diagnosis. Better outcomes. Reduced healthcare costs

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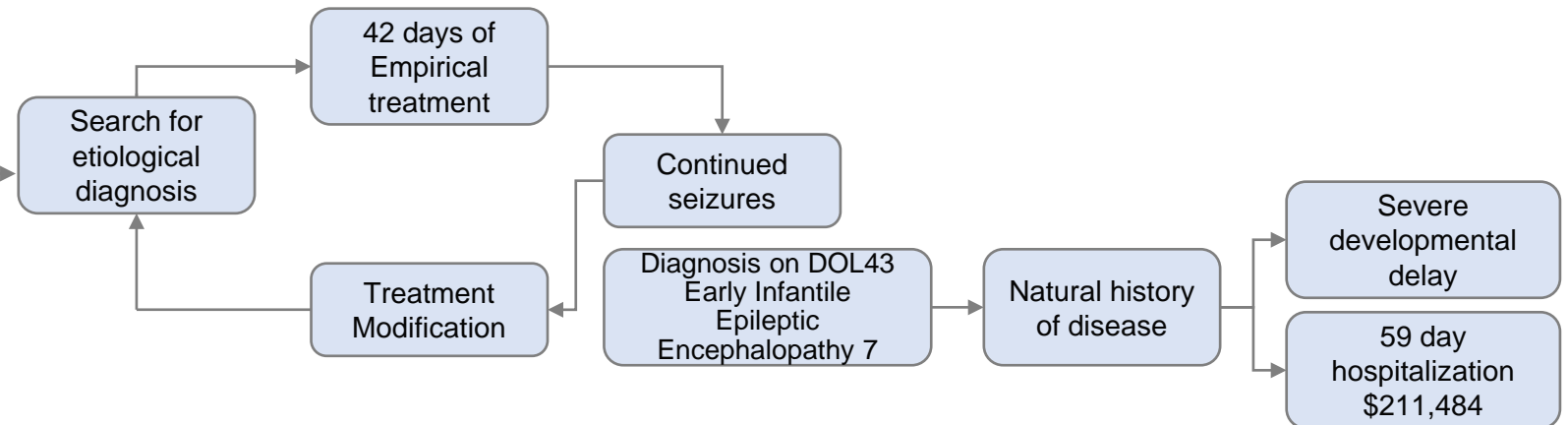


# The Rapid Precision Medicine Paradigm: Example of Neonatal Seizures

**Sebastiana**



**Newborn 16 Months Earlier**





Sebastiana and her mom recently came to visit after a routine exam and was dancing, playing and reading

# rWGS consistently associated with high clinical utility

Study Name	Sequencing Type	NICU/PICU enrollment criteria	Study size	Rate of diagnosis	Rate of change in mgmt	Rate in change of outcome
Willig, Children's Mercy, Kansas City	rWGS	<4 mo of age; suspected actionable genetic disease <sup>13</sup>	35	57%	31%	29%
Petrik, RCIGM	rWGS	<4 mo of age; suspected genetic disease <sup>6</sup>	32	41%	31%	N/D
Farnaes, RCIGM	rWGS	Infants; suspected genetic disease <sup>15</sup>	42	43%	31%	26%
Mestek, UCL Great Ormond Street Institute of Child Health (GOSgene UK)	rWGS	Children; PICU and cardiovascular ICU <sup>8</sup>	24	42%	13%	N/D
Sanford, UCSD, RCIGM	rWGS	4 mo- to 18 yr; PICU; suspected genetic disease <sup>9</sup>	38	48%	39%	8%
French, School of Clinical Medicine, University of Cambridge	rWGS	Suspected genetic disease <sup>7</sup>	195	21%	13%	N/D
Dimmock, RCIGM	rWGS	Infants; disease of unknown etiology; within 96 hr of admission <sup>1</sup>	94	19%	24%	10%
Project Baby Bear, RCIGM	rWGS	Medical infants; <1 wk admission <sup>3</sup>	178	43%	31%	N/D
PBM, Nicklaus Children's Hospital	rWGS, urWGS	Inpatient children <18 yr, 90% in ICUs, primarily PICU <sup>16</sup>	50	40%	38%	N/D
Saunders, Children's Mercy, Kansas City	urWGS	NICU infants; suspected genetic disease <sup>11</sup>	4	75%	N/D	N/D
Clark, RCIGM	urWGS	Infants; suspected genetic disease <sup>5</sup>	7	43%	43%	N/D
Dimmock, RCIGM	urWGS	Infants; disease of unknown etiology; within 96 hr of admission <sup>1</sup>	24	46%	63%	25%
<b>WEIGHTED AVERAGE, rWGS + urWGS</b>			<b>723</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>17%</b>

- 12 studies from multiple institutions



**35%**  
diagnosed



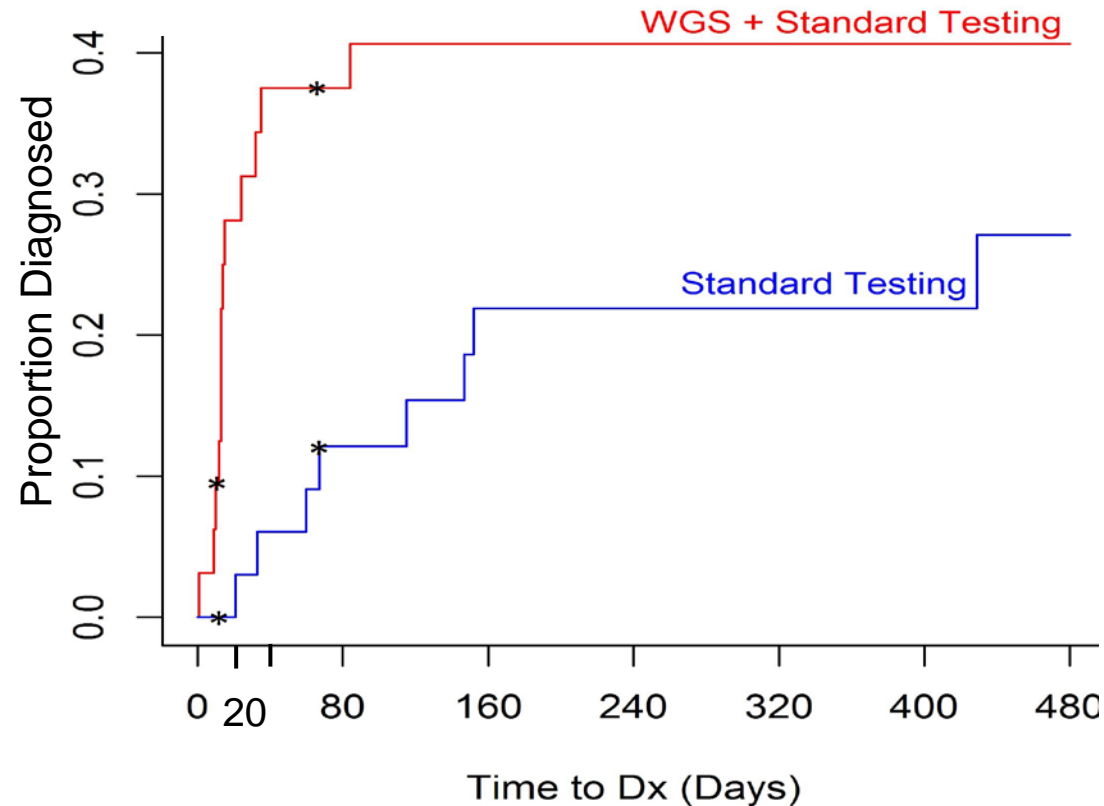
**77%**  
of those  
diagnosed had a  
change in  
management



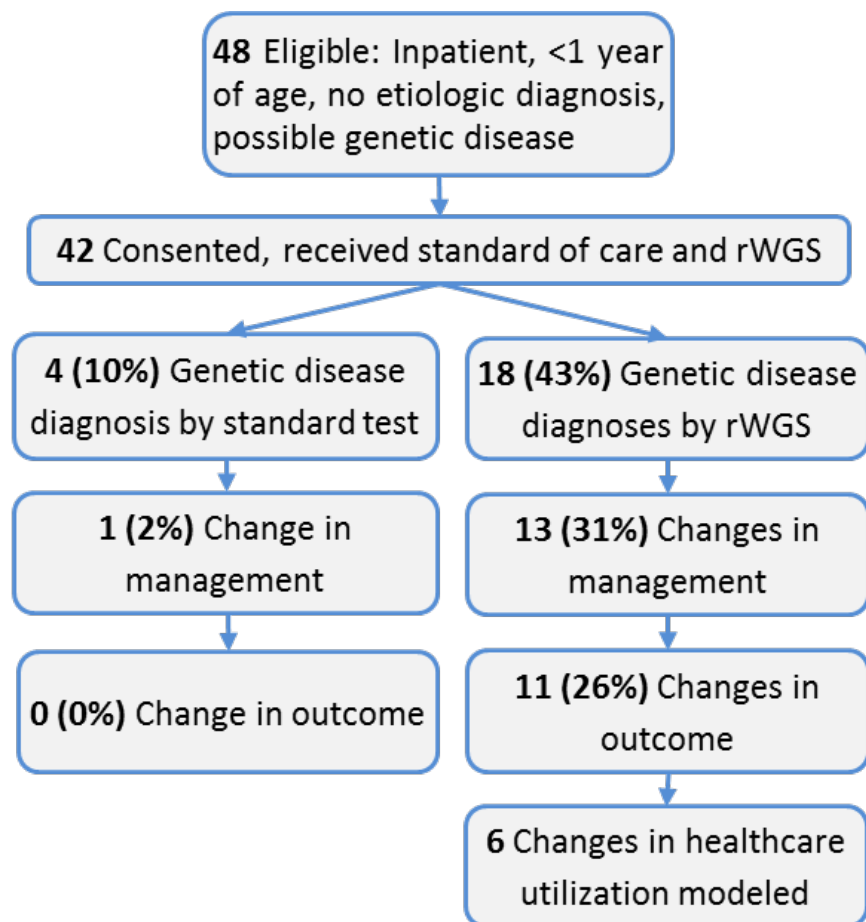
**30%**  
of those who had  
a change in  
management, had  
a change in  
outcome\*

# The NSIGHT1-randomized controlled trial: rapid whole genome sequencing for accelerated etiologic diagnosis in critically ill infants

Josh E. Petrikin<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Julie A. Cakici<sup>4</sup>, Michelle M. Clark<sup>4</sup>, Laurel K. Willig<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Nathaly M. Sweeney<sup>4,5</sup>, Emily G. Farrow<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Carol J. Saunders<sup>1,3,6</sup>, Isabelle Thiffault<sup>1,3,6</sup>, Neil A. Miller<sup>1</sup>, Lee Zellmer<sup>1</sup>, Suzanne M. Herd<sup>1</sup>, Anne M. Holmes<sup>2</sup>, Serge Batalov<sup>4</sup>, Narayanan Veeraraghavan<sup>4</sup>, Laurie D. Smith<sup>1,3,7</sup>, David P. Dimmock<sup>4</sup>, J. Steven Leeder<sup>2,3</sup> and Stephen F. Kingsmore<sup>4</sup>



# Near term cost savings outweigh cost of rWGS testing by ~\$10K / patient



Subject ID	Presentation and modeled change in care	Gene	Time-to-diagnosis, days (method)	Hospital stay, Days	Decreased hospital stay, days (%)	Total cost	Cost avoided
6011	Cholestasis. 1st admission for etiologic Dx	NPC1	7 (G)	8	15 (35%)	\$ 25,278	\$ 27,004
	Cholestasis. 2nd admission for etiologic Dx			15		\$ 27,004	
6012	Palliative care started DOL 250	ARID1B	26 (G)	250	42 (17%)	\$ 1,949,438	\$ 327,506
	Palliative care started DOL 292			292		\$ 2,276,944	
6014	Hypotonia. Avoided EMG, GA, muscle biopsy	NEB1	7 (G)	45	2 (6%)	\$ 156,914	\$ 9900
Control 1	Electromyogram, GA, muscle biopsy					\$ 9900	
6026	Cholestasis and congenital heart disease. Avoided hepatoportoenterosomy	JAG1	3 (G)	11	3 (18%)	\$ 50,327	\$ 131,795
Control 2	Kasai hepatoportoenterostomy					\$ 44,451	
Avg cost	Cost of liver transplant × 43% occurrence					\$ 87,344	
6041	Seizures. Diagnosis DOL 4	KCNQ2	4 (G)	18	41 (69%)	\$ 79,675	\$ 181,481
	Seizures. Diagnosis DOL 42		42 (S)	59		\$ 261,156	
6053	Hypoglycemia. Diagnosis DOL 12	ABCC8	7 (G)	10	21 (68%)	\$ 59,769	\$ 125,514
	Hypoglycemia. Diagnosis DOL 32		28 (S)	31		\$ 185,283	
Healthcare savings				398			\$ 803,199
Cost of rWGS in 42 families							\$ 674,645
Net healthcare savings							\$ 128,554



# NSIGHT2

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## When genomic sequencing is limited to children in whom experts suspect a genetic disorder:

- The total burden of genetic disease is not known
- It is unclear who else might benefit from sequencing
- Care may be inaccessible to infants in a hospital without a genetics service

## Primary assumption of NSIGHT2:

- Genetic disorders are suspected to be a key reason for ICU admissions in those without an immediate, identifiable etiology

# High clinical utility of rWGS in patients with low suspicion of genetic disease

## Diagnostic rate with suspicion

- 15/25 (60%)
- Consistent with NSIGHT1 and other published series
- Higher positive diagnostic rate / Lower rate of change in care management
- **Two (2)** patients with significant change in management and outcome

## Diagnostic rate without suspicion

- 33/189 (17.5%)
- Considerably lower than other series
- Lower positive diagnostic rate / Higher rate of change in care management
- **Eleven (11)** patients with significant change in management and outcome



# Historical physician concerns



- Different opinions about whether and how genomic results could be clinically useful
- Potential harms of genomic testing
- Uncertainty about the interpretation of results
- Parental consent and limits on their right to know genomic information

# NSIGHT2 data

## Are genomic results clinically useful?

### Per physicians

- rWGS was useful in 154 (77%) of 201 infants
- 28% of infants had changes in management as a result of diagnostic genomic sequencing
- Negative tests changed management in 16% of infants

### Per parents

- 97% (156) of 161 parents reported that testing was at least somewhat useful

## Potential harms of genomic testing?

### Per physicians

- Perceived increased stress in 6 (3%) of 207 cases
- Improved communication with 41% of families

### Per parents

- One (0.6%) of 161 parents reported harm from testing due to not receiving positive results
- Decisional regret was low (median 0)

# NSIGHT2 data

## Uncertainty about the interpretation of results

### Per physicians

- Perceived increased confusion for parents in 1 (0.5%) and zero (0) for clinicians in 207 cases
- Led to results not fully understood in 9 (4.5%) of cases

### Per parents

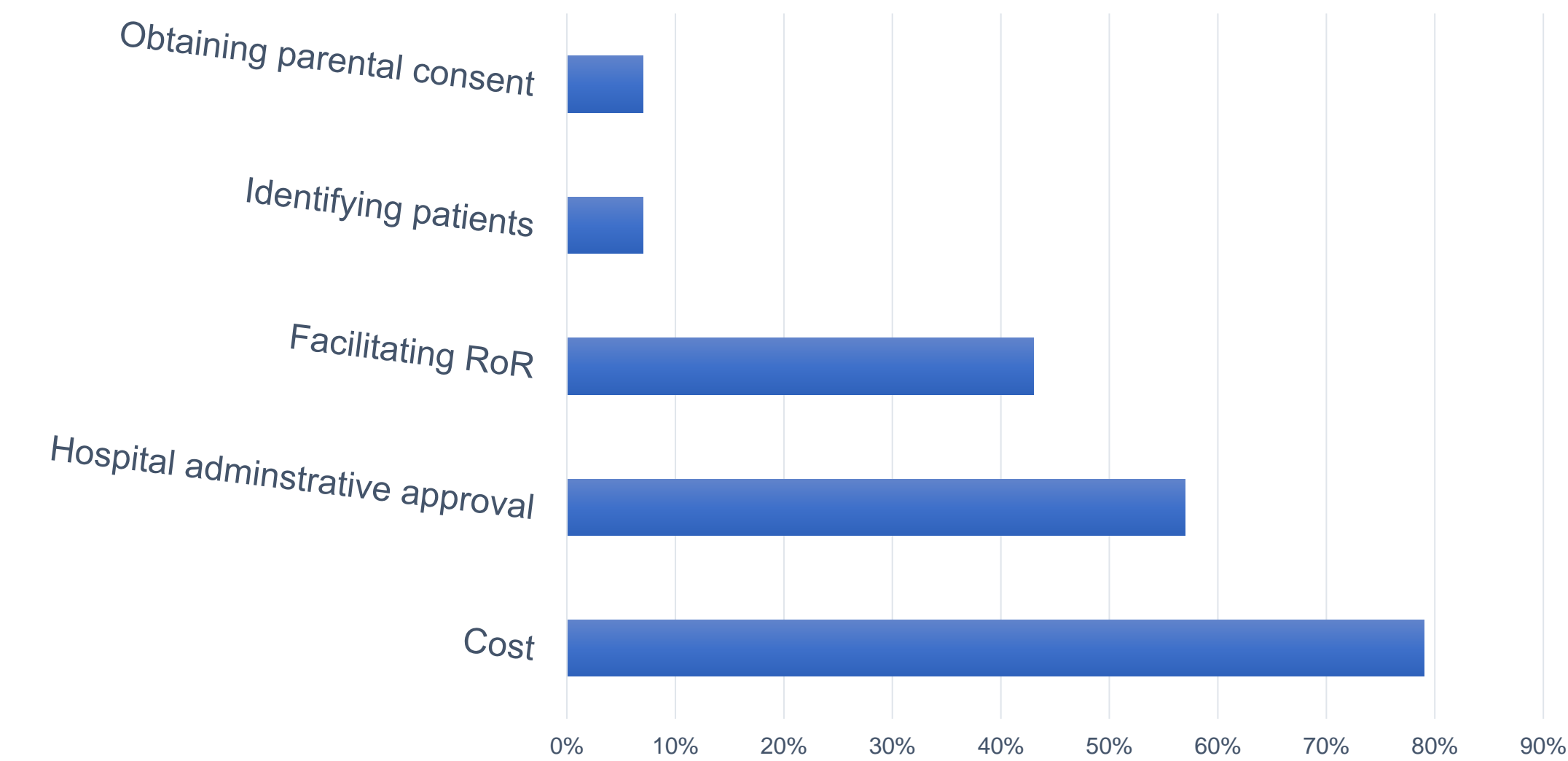
- 79% (127) reported that they understood the results one week after their return
- 80% (129) said that testing made them more knowledgeable about their child's future health
- 66% (106) felt better able to manage their child's potential symptoms

## Parental consent and limits on their right to know genomic information

### Per parents

- Over 90% reported being adequately informed to consent for diagnostic genomic sequencing

# Obstacles to ordering rWGS



# Project Baby Bear demonstrated clinical utility and cost-effectiveness of rapid precision medicine

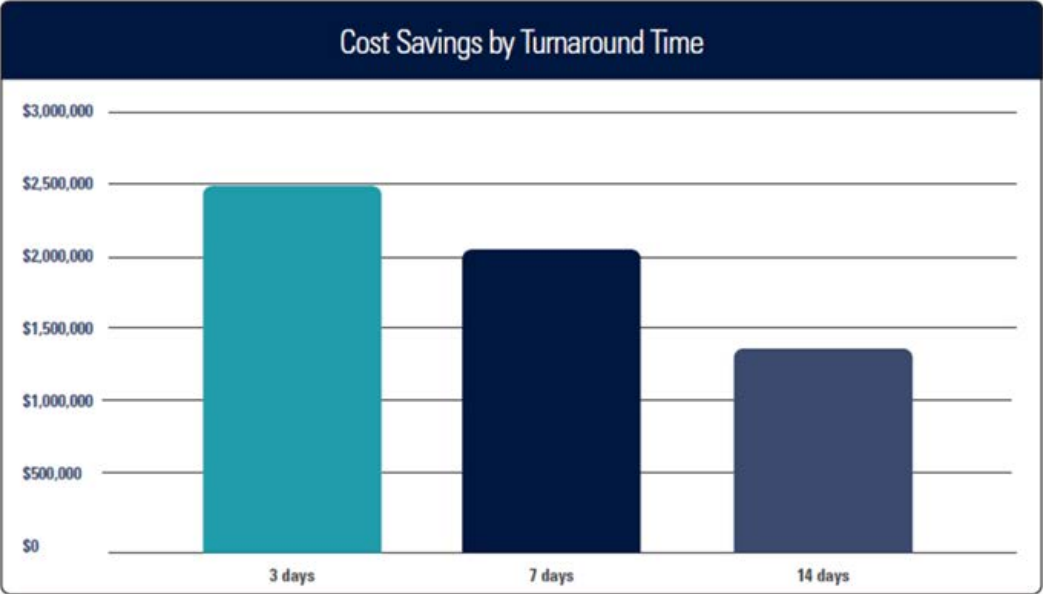


PILOT SITES	# OF BABIES	BABIES DIAGNOSED	BABIES WHOSE CARE WAS CHANGED*	DAYS TO RESULTS**
CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL ORANGE COUNTY	23	12 (52%)	9 (39%)	2.5
RADY CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL-SAN DIEGO	59	22 (37%)	19 (32%)	3
UC DAVIS CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL (Sacramento)	34	12 (35%)	8 (24%)	2
UCSF BENIOFF CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OAKLAND	24	12 (50%)	9 (38%)	3
VALLEY CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL (Madera)	38	18 (47%)	10 (26%)	3
TOTAL PROJECT BABY BEAR CASES				
* Results confirmed 21 babies were already receiving appropriate care				
** Median # days to delivery of provisional positive results				



\$2.5M  
in healthcare savings

- 513 fewer hospital days
- 11 fewer major surgeries
- 16 fewer invasive diagnostic tests
- Reduction in suffering and unnecessary surgeries and tests







## Initial steps to implement WGS testing for a patient

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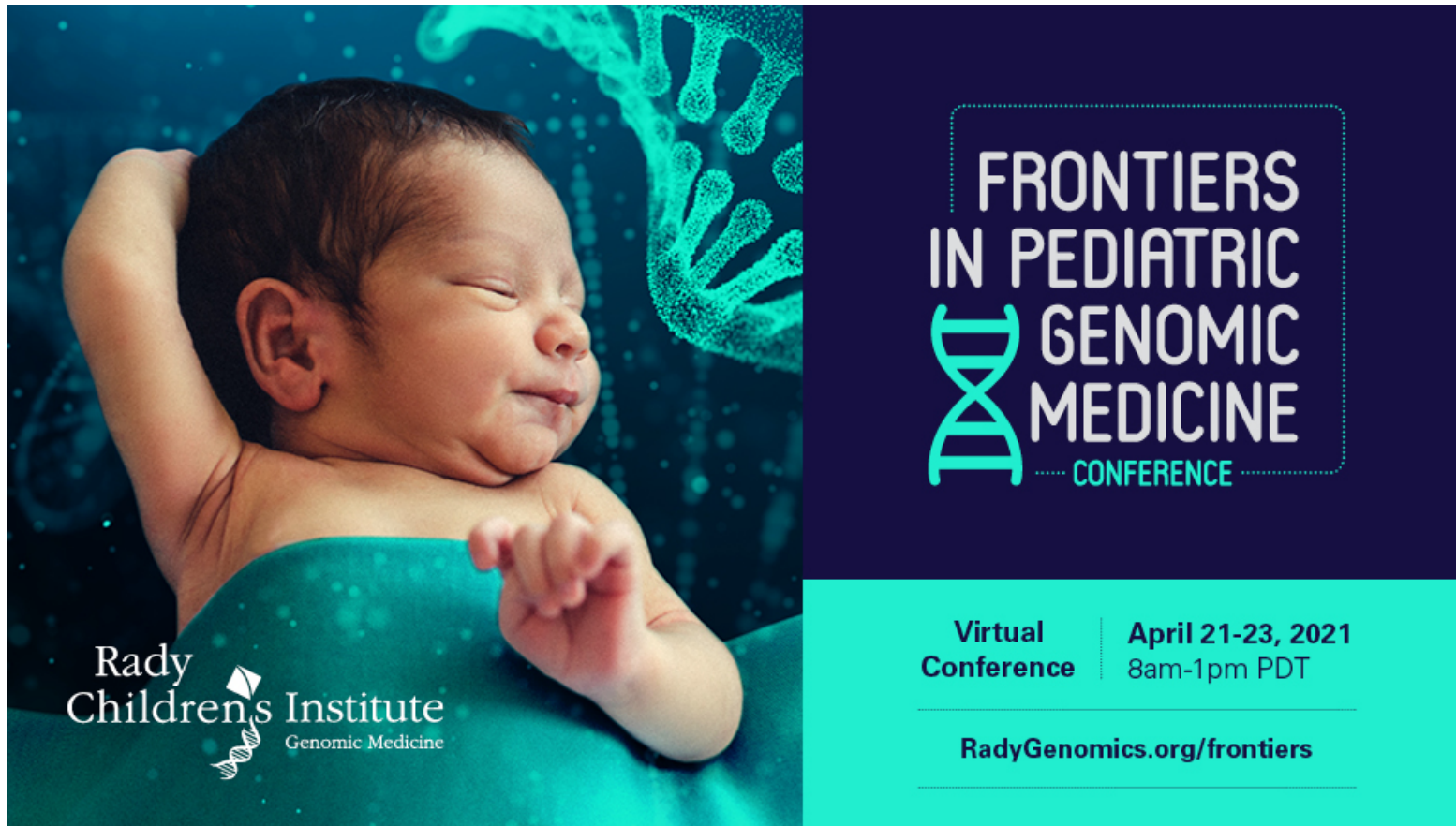
# Initial steps to implementing rWGS testing

1. Email one of the individuals below to secure a current **Rady's Laboratory Requisition Form (LRF)** from Rady Children's Institute for Genomic Medicine. These individuals will provide support, education, etc., throughout the process.

Kat Chang	<a href="mailto:KChang1@rchsd.org">KChang1@rchsd.org</a>
Marilyn Brown	<a href="mailto:MBrown4@rchsd.org">MBrown4@rchsd.org</a>
Wes Segal	<a href="mailto:Wsegal@rchsd.org">Wsegal@rchsd.org</a>

- You may also call the Institute directly at (858) 966-8127.
2. Submit the Laboratory Requisition Form (LRF) to the Institute with pertinent patient clinical notes via fax (858) 966-8092.
  3. Send specimen – see requirements below – with a copy of the LRF:
    - For individuals aged 12 months and older, 2-4 ml of whole blood in an EDTA (lavender top) tube: Two (2) tubes of 1-2 ml of whole blood preferred.
    - For infants less than 12 months of age, a minimum of 0.5 ml of whole blood: One (1.0) ml of whole blood preferred.
    - Label each specimen tube with at least two unique identifiers: Name and DOB preferred.
    - Ship specimen tube(s) at room temperature in an insulated container.
    - Submit specimen tube(s) to the Institute within 5 days of collection and store at 4°C within 24 hours of collection through time of packing for shipment.





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**[www.radygenomics.org/frontiers](http://www.radygenomics.org/frontiers)**

# Process for receiving your CME credit

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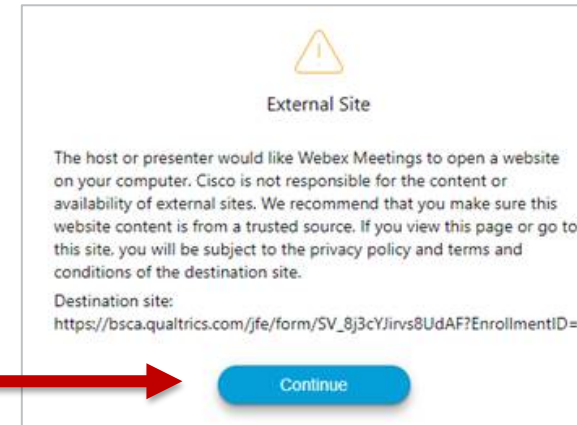
- The **email will provide a link to this webinar's evaluation**, and directions you must follow to complete it and if appropriate, secure your CME credit.
- **First-time users must set up an online CME profile** before you can access the system. The email will provide directions for how to do this. The profile will take approximately 3 minutes to complete.
- **Your profile will house all CME credits earned through Scripps Health**, and you will be able to print and retain certificates.
- Once your profile is established, you can access it for future webinars by entering your login and password.

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Click **Continue** to access the survey – it takes approximately 3 minutes to complete.

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# WGS vs. WES

## WGS has established itself as having clear benefits over WES

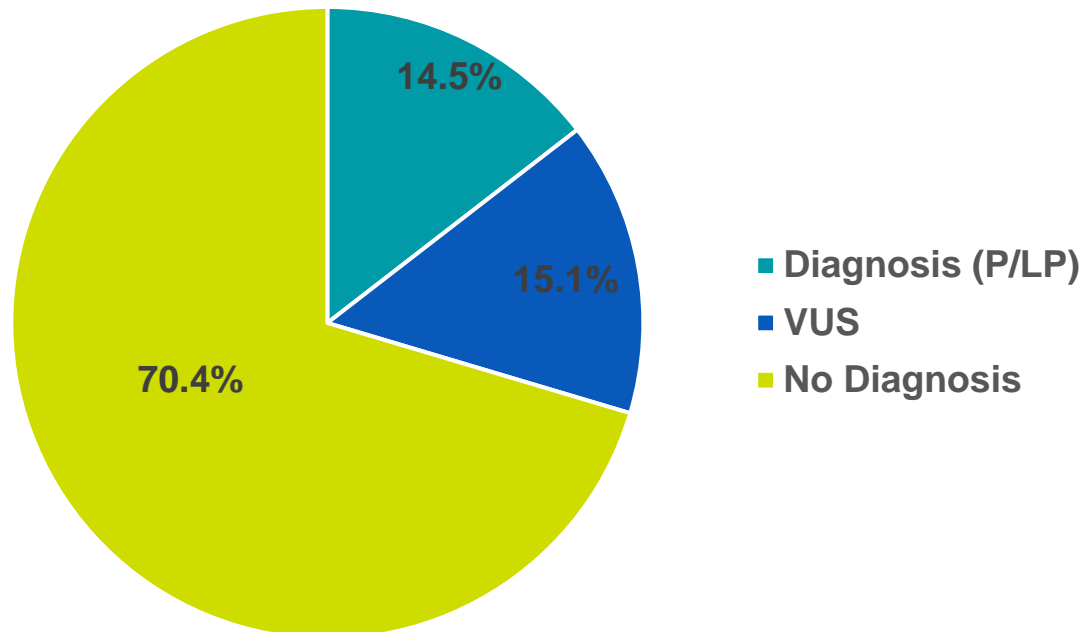


Non-coding variants are often the cause of disease and are not picked up by WES



RCIGM internal data suggests an approximate increased in diagnostic yield of 8-15% from WGS compared to current WES platforms

WGS Results - 358 Patients Undiagnosed by WES<sup>1</sup>



## WGS is an integrated analysis of SNVs, indels, CNVs, SMA, mitochondrial DNA in one test

Examples:

- **Small CNVs** – 30+ cases of CNVs smaller than 30 kB; 15+ cases of CNVs smaller than 5 kB
- **Mitochondrial variants** – 5 diagnoses (Leigh syndrome, Pearson syndrome)
- **Intronic Variation** – 5'UTR in ERCC6 – functionally confirmed; RNU4ATAC – non-coding; Deep intronic in RYR1 (-48) – RNA-seq confirmed
- **Repeat Expansions** – 6 DMPK cases, 1 PHOX2B
- **Mobile Insertion Elements** – ASPA, KARS, other candidates
- **Coverage from PCR-free Genomes** – GREB1L

# WGS vs. WES

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**RCIGM internal data suggests an approximate increased in diagnostic yield of 8-15% from WGS compared to current WES platforms**