FACT SHEET

What is Project Baby Bear?
A $2 million pilot program funded by the State of California in July 2018 to provide rapid Whole Genome Sequencing for 100 critically-ill Medi-Cal eligible babies in intensive care with unexplained conditions at one of 5 participating hospitals.

What was the purpose of Project Baby Bear?
To test and examine the benefits of using rWGS to help improve outcomes for infants hospitalized in intensive care with undiagnosed illness while decreasing the medical costs.

Who were the Beneficiaries of Project Baby Bear?

- 178 infants ranging from newborn to 1 year old
- All patients were hospitalized in intensive care units – neonatal intensive care (NICU), pediatric Intensive Care (PICU) or cardiovascular intensive care (CVICU) with otherwise unexplained critical illnesses
- Patient blood samples were sent to RCIGM for sequencing from the California Children's Services accredited neonatal and pediatric intensive care units at the following participating hospitals:
    - UC San Francisco Benioff Children's Hospital– Oakland
    - UC Davis Children's Hospital (Sacramento)
    - Valley Children's Hospital (Madera)
    - Rady Children's Hospital–San Diego
    - CHOC Children's Hospital (Orange County)

Results of PBB:

- A total of 178 babies were sequenced, nearly double state mandated 100 patients
- 76 babies (43%) had a diagnosis through rWGS that explained their illness
- 55 babies (31%) of babies had a resulting change in care (rapid precision medicine)
- Diagnoses included 35 rare conditions that occurs in less than 1 in 1 million births
- 513 fewer days in the hospital for babies sequenced
- 11 fewer major surgeries
- 16 fewer invasive diagnostic tests
- $2.5 million in healthcare savings
- Median turnaround time for results – 3 days, compared with 4-6 weeks for standard genetic tests

Key Facts

- Rady Children's Hospital-San Diego was the recipient of the State funding
- Testing and results were provided by Rady Children's Institute for Genomic Medicine (RCIGM)
- RCIGM focuses on delivering the fastest, most accurate diagnosis of rare disease for newborns with unexplained medical conditions via rapid Whole Genome Sequencing
- Prior to Project Baby Bear, never before had rapid whole genome sequencing been a covered benefit of a public medical healthcare

Useful links

Project Baby Bear is first of its kind in U.S.
CBS8 Growing Up San Diego – July 25, 2019

Project Baby Bear is Solving Medical Mysteries at Valley Children's Hospital
The Fresno Bee