

April 19, 2006

To Whom It May Concern:

RE: *Your Child's Name*(insert)

Dear Health Care Provider:

Your Child's Name (insert) has been diagnosed with propionic acidemia, a rare inborn error of metabolism associated with recurrent episodes of metabolic ketoacidosis which can result in brain damage or death. Such episodes are often precipitated by intercurrent illnesses such as viral infections or otitis media.. If this patient should present to your facility with symptoms of vomiting, altered mental status, lethargy, or respiratory distress, this should be viewed as a life-threatening emergency. Intravenous fluids containing 10% dextrose should be started immediately without waiting for the results of laboratory studies, even if the patient does not appear to be dehydrated. The following laboratory tests should be obtained immediately: serum electrolytes, CO₂, ammonia, glucose. If the patient has abdominal pain or tenderness or appears obtunded, serum amylase and lipase should also be obtained since pancreatitis is a known complication of the disorder. All dietary protein intake should be withheld. If metabolic acidosis is present, sodium bicarbonate should be given intravenously.

As soon as possible, *Your Child's Doctor*(insert) should be notified at one of the following numbers:
Insert all relevant contact numbers for your child's MD