

Newborn Screening Provider Self-Assessment

The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) is participating in a national effort to increase accuracy and improve timeliness of newborn screening (NBS) submissions and follow-up. DSHS needs your help to improve NBS timeframes to ensure best outcomes for affected babies. Is your facility doing everything necessary to ensure timely submission and follow-up of NBS tests? To ensure best practices review this list to see areas where you might make improvements in your newborn screening blood spot collection, submission, and follow-up practices. Check each listed item with either "Yes" or "No."

Establish Newborn Screening Policies and Procedures

- Yes No
1. Have you designated a primary screening coordinator and a backup to be in charge of your NBS process?
- Yes No
2. Do you have detailed, up-to-date, written policies for NBS blood spot collection and appropriate submission instructions?
- Yes No
3. Do you review these policies with all staff annually and with new staff, including temporary staff, when they are hired?

Ensure Appropriate Daily Collection of Blood Spot Cards

- Yes No
4. Are all first screen specimens collected in the appropriate time frame for the newborn's clinical status but no later than 48 hours after birth?
- Yes No
5. Have you developed procedures to ensure collections are completed at least 4-5 hours before scheduled courier pick up to allow time for drying and shipment preparation?
- Yes No
6. Are blood spot cards allowed to dry for a minimum of 3 hours before packaging for shipment?
7. Do you have someone assigned daily to:
- Yes No
- a. Gather specimens from all areas 1 hour before scheduled courier pickup?
- Yes No
- b. Check specimen quality and accuracy/ legibility of demographic information?
- Yes No
- c. Ensure all newborn screening orders are completed and accounted for?

Ensure Daily Shipment of Blood Spot Cards

- Yes No
8. Do you utilize an overnight courier service for blood spot card submissions?
- Yes No
9. Do you ensure all specimens collected in the facility are included in the next possible courier shipment every day?
- Yes No
10. If you ship with FedEx, do you ensure that specimens shipped on Fridays are marked for Saturday delivery?
- Yes No
11. Are blood spot cards shipped directly from your facility to DSHS?
- Yes No
12. Have you designated a staff person and a backup to be in charge of logging/tracking and shipping at your facility 7 days a week?

Yes No

13. Do you maintain a daily shipping log of blood spot collection cards submitted?

DSHS Newborn Screening Web Application

14. Do you utilize the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Newborn Screening Web Application to:

Yes No

a. Access monthly facility report cards and monitor monthly quality of Newborn Screening Specimens?

Yes No

b. Generate patient demographic labels for blood spot collection cards?

Yes No

c. Access newborn screening results?

Follow-Up for Abnormal Screening Results

Yes No

15. Do you have a written protocol for follow-up of abnormal screening results?

Yes No

16. Is there a staff member designated as a primary contact for abnormal NBS results?

Yes No

17. Does staff know how to contact the Texas Department of State Health Services, Newborn Screening Clinical Care Coordination team?

If you answered “Yes” to all of the above, give yourselves a pat on the back! If not, please determine a plan to address the areas that may need improvement and work to implement any needed changes. Contact the Texas DSHS Newborn Screening Laboratory at 1-888-963-7111 x7585 or email NewbornScreeningLab@dshs.state.tx.us for more information.