

NH NEWBORN SCREENING SPECIMEN GUIDELINES

Newborn screening shall be required for all infants born in the State of New Hampshire, in accordance with RSA 132:10-a, unless the parent(s) or guardian(s) object. Specimens shall be sent to the Laboratory within 24 hours of collection.

Well Baby Nursery

- Obtain the initial dried blood specimen between 24 and 48 hours after birth.
- If the infant will be discharged at less than 24 hours after birth, **do not omit** the primary specimen; early testing can trigger prompt intervention for some of the life-threatening conditions for which we screen. Obtain an initial dried blood specimen at time of discharge from a birth facility for infants discharged prior to the first 24 hours of life.
 - (1) In this situation, the infant's healthcare provider or designee shall then obtain a second dried blood specimen within 48 hours of discharge.

Infants Who Are Sick, Premature, Less than 1500 grams or Receiving Higher Level of Care

- Obtain a dried blood specimen between 24 and 48 hours of age, *regardless* of feeding status.
- Obtain a second dried blood specimen at 2 weeks of age; additional repeat dried blood specimens at 1 month, and monthly thereafter; and a final dried blood specimen upon discharge or transfer from the higher level of care.

Transfusions

- Obtain a dried blood specimen, if possible, before any anticipated transfusion, regardless of infant's age.
- If the first dried blood specimen is obtained within 48 hours after transfusion, then a second dried blood specimen shall be obtained 48 hours after transfusion; and a final dried blood specimen shall be collected by the infant's healthcare provider 60 days after the final transfusion.

Transfer from One Hospital to Another

- The infant's healthcare provider shall ensure that a dried blood spot is obtained prior to transfer to another medical facility.
- If an infant's medical condition prohibits collection prior to transfer to another medical facility, the transferring birth facility shall notify the receiving medical facility that a dried blood specimen has not been obtained; and submit a completed filter paper form without the blood specimen and with a comment explaining the circumstances preventing the collection of blood.
- Upon notice of non-collection from the birth facility, the receiving medical facility shall obtain a dried blood specimen for screening in accordance with He-P 3008.05.

Parent or Guardian Education and Refusals for Testing

- The infant's health care provider shall inform the infant's parent or guardian of their right to opt out of the performance of the dried blood specimen testing per RSA 132:10-c.
- If the infant's parent or guardian objects to the performance of dried blood testing, he or she shall provide a statement of dissent for refusal of newborn screening to the infant's healthcare provider or designee, subject to He-P 3008.04.
- The infant's healthcare provider or designee shall submit a copy of the statement of dissent for refusal of newborn screening to the NSP via secure fax #603-271-4519; and a copy of the statement of dissent for refusal of newborn screening shall be provided to the parent or guardian.

Resources:

Forms, brochures, educational materials and newborn screening supplies can be found at our website:

<https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/programs-services/population-health/maternal-child-health/newborn-screening-program>

**For questions, please call New Hampshire Newborn Screening Program
1-800-852-3345, ext 4225 or direct 603-271-4225**