

# Newborn Screening News

Vol 3, Issue 2 April 2002

## EDTA/Citrate Anticoagulant Status Report:

All providers have done an **EXCEPTIONAL** job in responding to the information that specimens collected with EDTA or Citrate are unacceptable for NBS testing. The number of specimens identified as collected with EDTA has ALMOST, but not totally, disappeared. It is extremely important that all providers continue be aware that EDTA and Citrate anticoagulants interfere with NBS assays.

## **Specimen Collection Most Critical Demographic Information**

#### For matching first and second screens:

- C Baby's Last Name
- C Mother's Last Name and First Name
- C Mother's Social Security No.

This information is vital for identification and location of infants for follow-up of abnormal test results; it must be accurate, legible, and complete.

#### For accurate result reporting:

- C Birthweight-Grams (This should be the baby's weight **at birth**, not the time of specimen collection.)
- C Date of Birth
- C Date of Specimen

Weight Conversion Charts are available free of charge by calling 1-800-422-2956 extension 2129 or by requesting a chart via email: <a href="mailto:newborn@tdh.state.tx.us">newborn@tdh.state.tx.us</a>

#### **Reasons these fields are Critical:**

- 1. Without a Baby's or Mother's Last Name the specimen is unacceptable
- 2. With our current computer system the Mother's Social Security No. is often the only piece of information that allows us to link first and second screens or to retrieve a specimen from the system
- 3. Birthweight, Date of Birth and Date of Collection allow the laboratory the ability to test the specimen with the correct age and birthweight populations, resulting in fewer false positive reports.

#### **Common Mistakes Seen:**

- 1. Date of Birth written in the Date of Specimen spaces
- 2. Date of Specimen written in the Date of Birth spaces
- 3. Many spaces left blank
- 4. Birthweight in pounds or ounces instead of grams

The Newborn Screening Program screens all Texas newborns twice. Therefore, we receive over 700,000 specimens a year; 3000 per day. By completing the demographic information thoroughly on all screens submitted to the department, we can expedite the Laboratory and Case Management processes.

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**Remember:** Finding and treating these five serious birth defects early prevents mental retardation and even early death.

### **Use of Courier Services**

If you choose to use overnight couriers, please address the parcel to:

> LABORATORY - TDH 1100 WEST 49<sup>TH</sup> STREET AUSTIN TX 78756

# Specimen Collection Card Feedback

TDH will soon revise the Specimen Collection Card. Any feedback would be beneficial to this process. Please submit opinions, comments, or advice on things that work well for you and on things that you would like to see changed. Please provide your responses via email or fax:

Email: Lynette.Borgfeld@tdh.state.tx.us

Subject: "NBS Specimen Card Comment"

Fax: Attn: Lynette Borgfeld

(512) 458-7221

### **Free Literature**

If you would like to receive free literature from the Newborn Screening Program for your patients and for professional health care staff for specimen collection procedures and protocols, please call 1-800-422-2956 extension 2129, or order online at www.tdh.state.tx.us/newborn/pubs.htm

PatientsProfessionalBrochuresPractitioner's GuidePosters (16x20)Specimen Collection Posters (11x17)2nd Screen MagnetsSpecimen Collection Guide

Weight Conversion Chart

Margaret Drummond-Borg, MD, Director Genetic Screening & Case Management Division Bureau of Children's Health

Eldridge T. Hutcheson, Ph.D., Director Biochemistry and Genetics Division Bureau of Laboratories



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TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH Bureau of Laboratories	FIRST Name / Twis A or B 1=No.2	THIS SPACE FOR TDH LABORATORY USE ONLY  Multiple Brilin?
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Street Address (PO. Box)  City  City		Sinta
Physician's Name (Last, First) +020000189  Physician's UPIN	Medical Record No.  Telephone No.  Name  Address  City  Attix Mailing Label or Print Ric	Date of Serin  Date of Specimen Indicate Infant's Age at House TX Specimen one