



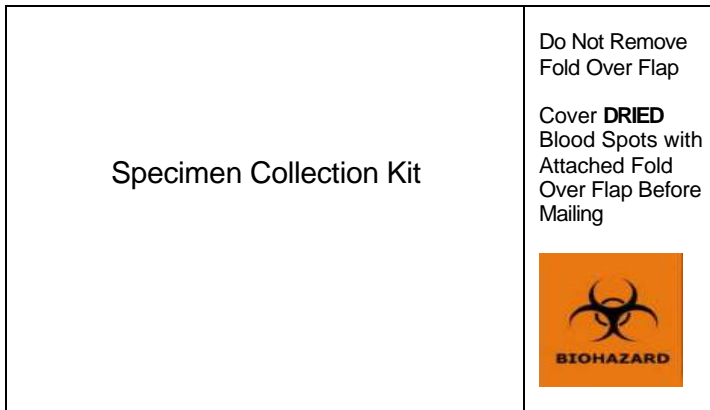
Newborn Screening News

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Unsatisfactory Specimens due to covering wet blood spots with fold-over flap

The newborn screening specimen collection kits are being manufactured with a fold-over flap that includes a pre-printed biohazard symbol.



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Fold-Over Flap

The filter paper for applying the newborn's blood from the heel-stick is located under the fold-over flap.

Fold the biohazard flap of the specimen collection device completely under and away from the filter paper. No portion of the fold-over flap should be in contact with the filter paper, including both the front and back side of the filter paper.

When collecting the specimen, lightly touch the filter paper to a LARGE blood drop. Allow blood to soak through and completely fill circle with SINGLE application. (To enhance blood flow, VERY GENTLE intermittent pressure may be applied to area surrounding puncture site). Apply blood to one side of filter paper only. Fill remaining circles in the same manner.

Dry blood spots on a dry, clean, flat non-absorbent surface for a **minimum of four hours**. Cover **DRIED** blood spots with fold-over flap before mailing.

DO NOT allow the fold-over flap to come into contact with the blood spots until after the recommended drying period. Wet blood spots that have come into contact with the fold-over flap will be assigned the blood specimen rejection code "D" - Specimen Appears Contaminated or Discolored.

Unsatisfactory specimens are rejected by the Newborn Screening Laboratory. This results in the need to repeat the screening of the newborn and a delay in the identification of disorders and treatment.

Please mail completed form to the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Laboratory **within 24 hours of collection**.

Questions regarding specimen collection procedures should be directed to the NBS Laboratory, 1-800-252-8023, extension 7333.

CLARIFICATIONS FROM THE NEWBORN SCREENING LABORATORY

Patient Demographic Information

On the NBS specimen collection card the new field of "Multiple Birth Order" must be limited to the current pregnancy. Therefore a single birth indicates a "1" in this field and a multiple birth indicates "1", "2", "3", etc. as appropriate for the birth order for this specific pregnancy (i.e., twins, triplets, etc.).



To order free education materials from the Newborn Screening Program for patients and specimen collection information for

submitters, please call 1-800-252-8023, ext. 2129 or order online:

<http://www.tdh.state.tx.us/newborn/pubs.htm>

Newborn Screening Directory

1-800-252-8023

Laboratory

The Laboratory can provide help in the following areas:

- ? Requests for collection forms, envelopes, and provider labels; payments for these supplies.
- ? Specimen collection procedures and techniques to avoid unsatisfactory test results.
- ? Requests for test results.
- ? Status of specimen arrival and test completion.
- ? Technical information on test procedures and reports.

General Information **7333**
 Technical Information
 Specimen Collection & Handling Procedures

Supplies **7661**
 Forms (filter paper)
 Envelopes
 Provider Labels

Billing **7317**
 Payments - NBS4 Forms

Reporting **7578**
 Routine Specimen Reports
(Abnormal screens: Call Case Management for the abnormal disorder reported)

Quality Assurance **3233**
 Unsatisfactory Specimen Collection

Case Management

The Case Management team can provide help in the following areas:

- ? Newborn screening educational materials (English and Spanish available)
- ? Instructions for follow-up of abnormal screening results, i.e. what type of specimen to submit for additional testing, where, and when.
- ? Referrals to pediatric specialists for diagnosis and management of newborn screening disorders.
- ? Referrals for financial resources available to assist with covering the costs of medical management and special dietary needs for diagnosed cases.
- ? Information on requirements for newborn screening in Texas.

General Information **2129**
 Education Materials (Free)

Hypothyroidism
 Information **7715**

Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia (CAH)
 Information **2128**

Galactosemia
 Information **2128**

Hemoglobinopathies (e.g. Sickle Cell Disease)
 Information **2071**

Phenylketonuria (PKU)
 Information **2128**

