



# Newborn Screening News

Volume 8, Issue 3

July 2007

## UNSATISFACTORY SPECIMENS!

The **number 1** cause of an unsatisfactory specimen which must be rejected by the Newborn Screening Laboratory is **Patient information incomplete or invalid.**

This is usually due to specimens being submitted without a **DATE OF COLLECTION.** The Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) of 1988 require that all laboratory specimens **without a date of collection be rejected** to ensure the quality of test results. To maintain CLIA licensure the state laboratory must be in compliance with CLIA requirements.

It is also important to provide as much demographic information as possible about the newborn in order to obtain accurate results and to allow the Newborn Screening Case Management Branch to locate an infant with an abnormal screen.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Newborn Screening Laboratory with questions regarding specimen collection at: 1-800-252-8023 ext. 7333 or email us at [newborn@dshs.state.tx.us](mailto:newborn@dshs.state.tx.us)

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## Specimen Collection Form Expiration Date Important Information:

Specimens received on "05-" forms will be **REJECTED.** Any form with a **serial number beginning with "05-" expired on Dec. 31, 2006.** The 2005 forms were printed with the **wrong Date of Expiration.** The **first two digits** of the **form serial number** are the **Year of Manufacture.**

Currently Specimen Collection Forms Expire Two Years following manufacture.

Questions can be addressed to [newborn@dshs.state.tx.us](mailto:newborn@dshs.state.tx.us) or by calling 1-800-252-8023 ext. 7333.  
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## URGENT MESSAGE NBS Specimen Rejection Possible due to NEW POSTAL REGULATIONS!!!

Effective May 14, 2007 the USPS raised postage rates, and initiated new postage pricing rules based on mail size and shape. The changes will require you to carefully evaluate your newborn screening specimen shipping practices to ensure that correct postage is used. **Envelopes with insufficient postage may be returned, leading to critical newborn screening delays or rejection of specimens.**

### General Information:

- 1 specimen card in an envelope (Letter) used to cost \$0.39 but will now cost \$0.41 to ship.
- The price increases as you add cards.
- 6 cards or more will require the more expensive flat rate pricing.
- Envelopes with metal clasps will be charged an additional \$0.17 surcharge if the clasps are used to close the envelope. Leave the clasp flat and close with tape only.

**The following are examples only. Please verify exact postage from your facility.**

- 1 specimen card in an envelope (Letter) will now cost \$0.41 to ship.
- 2 specimen cards in an envelope (Letter) will cost approximately \$0.58 to ship.
- 10 specimen cards in an envelope (now considered Flats) used to cost \$1.35 but

will now cost approximately \$1.48 to ship.

Obtain a copy of the new pricing schedule for your Mail Zone at <http://pe.usps.gov/>

Additional information can be found at <http://hhscx.hhsc.state.tx.us/Admin/BRS/mail/USPSCustomerPresentationMay8.pdf>

### Updating of Result Messages used to Report NBS Specimens

Statements used to report NBS results will be modified slightly in the near future. If your facility will need a list of the changes please provide your contact information via email to [LabInfo@dshs.state.tx.us](mailto:LabInfo@dshs.state.tx.us)

### Newborn Screening Report Cards!

The first report cards to submitters summarizing specimen quality was mailed in June 2007 and another is on the way! Please contact the laboratory if you haven't received a report: **1-888-963-7111 x 6030** or e-mail: [LabInfo@dshs.state.tx.us](mailto:LabInfo@dshs.state.tx.us)

### Avoid Use of Lotions When Collecting NBS Specimens

Lotions containing EDTA, biotin, amino acids, L-carnitine and other ingredients can cause problems with Laboratory assays. Avoid specimen contamination by ensuring that lotions are not allowed to contact the specimen or specimen collection filter paper.

### SPECIAL NOTICE:

#### “06” Specimen Collection Forms & “07” PARENT COPY Collection Forms Recommended Procedures

The new specimen collection kits (07) include a green parent copy as the first sheet. Birthing facilities should complete the information on this sheet and give to the parent. The parent form should be taken to the baby's next office visit to help

link the child's first and second screen, and allow for quick notification of a disorder. The physician performing the second screen should review the parent copy and write the serial number in the designated area on the second screen kit. **If your facility is currently using 06 forms, please write the serial number of the first screen in the margin of the collection form. It is not necessary to return the 06 forms as they are valid through December 31, 2007.**

### Reminders

Please mail specimens within 24 hours of collection. With the expansion, there are now over 14 disorders with “critical” status that can cause severe problems the first week of life.

### What you can do to help!

- Please act quickly to get children back for medical care, confirmatory testing or rescreening when requested.
- Visit and become familiar with the case management web page for submitters located at: <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/newborn>


### Case Management contacts

For urgent questions call: 1-800-252-8023  
For non-urgent questions email: [newborn@DSHS.state.tx.us](mailto:newborn@DSHS.state.tx.us)

### Laboratory contacts

For urgent questions call: 1- 888-963-7111 ext. 7333  
For laboratory results call: 1-888-963-7111 ext. 7578

For Non-urgent laboratory questions email: [LabInfo@dshs.state.tx.us](mailto:LabInfo@dshs.state.tx.us)

	To order free educational 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:	
<a href="http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/newborn/pubs.shtm">http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/newborn/pubs.shtm</a>	