



Newborn Screening News

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The Newborn Screening Toll-Free Number is Changing

Effective **November 1, 2004**, NBS will no longer be using the 1-800-422-2956 Family Health Services Information & Referral number. This number will be replaced with **1-800-252-8023**.

While the Family Health Services number will be discontinued, the message on the line will direct customers to either call 2-1-1 for local services or they will be transferred to the new 800#. The phone tree for inquiries to the Newborn Screening Case Management Program and Newborn Screening Laboratory will remain the same. The Family Health Services number will be completely eliminated in December 2005.

SAMPLE MESSAGE:

Greeting

Hello. Hola.

You have reached the Texas Department of State Health Services' Division for Family and Community Health Services. Press 1 to continue in English.

If you are calling for general information about health services or social services in Texas, please hang up and dial 2-1-1.

Main Menu - English

If you are calling for information about a specific program at the Texas Department of State Health Services, please press 1 and you will be transferred to the new toll-free line. In the future you can call 1-800-252-8023 to reach these programs.

Please Select One of the Following Menu Options:

Press 1 if you know your party's extension.

Press 2 if you are calling about the Children with Special Health Care Needs Program.

Press 3 for a follow-up hearing test for your newborn or for hearing aid assistance for children.

Press 4 if you are calling about the Newborn Screening Program or lab results. (Using existing NBS phone tree.)

Press 5 if you received a case management denial letter.

Press 6 for information about spinal screening.

Press 7 for information about vision and hearing screening

Press 0 for all other inquiries or to speak to an attendant.

Press * to repeat this message.

New Testing Methodology for Galactosemia

Galactose-1-phosphate uridyl transferase (GALT or GALPUT) is one of three enzymes needed to breakdown galactose to glucose. GALT deficiency causes classical galactosemia which can result in death and mental retardation. The Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Newborn Screening Program is now using GALT levels rather than galactose levels to screen for galactosemia. The GALT screen is a more reliable test with better reproducibility. The new results will be reported out as:

Normal Gal-1-P uridyl transferase
Gal-1-P uridyl transferase – borderline
Gal-1-P uridyl transferase – abnormal

This is still a screen and an abnormal test result does not indicate that the child has galactosemia. A repeat screen, if normal, will rule out the diagnosis. A quantitative GALT level done by a reference laboratory will be required to confirm the diagnosis.

Questions?

For questions regarding the new test procedures, please call **1-800-252-8023 ext. 7333**.

Thank you.

WARNING

Newborn Screening

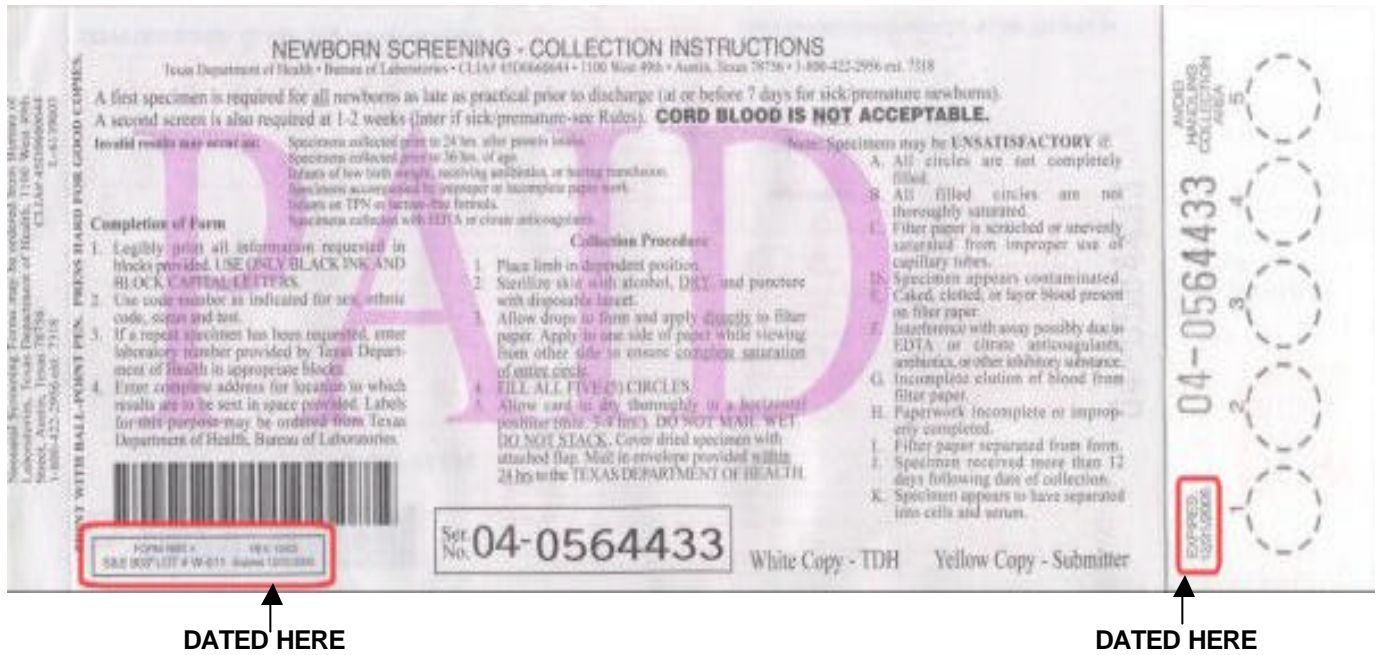
Expired Cards


Use newborn screening cards that **HAVE NOT** expired

Please check the **expiration date** on each card before specimen collection. The expiration date may be found on the bottom left corner of the NEWBORN SCREENING - COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS and at the top left of the filter paper.

The first two digits of the form serial number are the year for which the form was manufactured. It is always best to rotate stock and use the oldest forms first. The carbonless paper used for the demographic information portion of the form has a shelf life of approximately two years. If patient information does not transfer through to the submitters yellow file copy it may be necessary to photocopy the white form to maintain a record in the patient chart of the form sent to the laboratory for testing.

Contact the Texas Department of State Health Services Laboratory with questions 1-800-252-8023, extension 7661 or email us at newborn@dshs.state.tx.us





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>