

KANSAS NEWBORN SCREENING FOLLOW-UP Newsletter



Kansas Department of Health and Environment
1000 SW Jackson St. Suite 200
Topeka, KS 66612

In This Issue:

New Project: Improving Timeliness

Tips for Transit Time

Filter Paper Storage Reminder

Top-Performing Facilities in NBS

KHEL Updates: Holiday Message

To request specific information to be featured in the Quarterly Newsletter, please contact Annie Gile at (785)296-3617, or annie.gile@ks.gov.

Tips for Transit Time

(Adapted from the Texas DSHS Laboratory)

- Ship dried specimens within 24 hours of collection, preferably via overnight courier. If mail or courier services are unavailable, ship as quickly as possible.
- DO NOT delay shipment of newborn screening specimens.
- DO NOT batch or hold dried specimens for shipping.
- Ship dried specimens DIRECTLY from the collection facility to the state laboratory.
- DO NOT use USPS to mail dried specimens. They are sent to sorting facilities out of state, which can cause long delays.
- Identify possible process improvements at your facility to minimize transit time.
- If you have questions or concerns about couriers/ common carrier options, contact the KS NBS Follow-Up Program (785)291-3363, or the NBS Laboratory (785) 296-1647.



DECEMBER 2016

This newsletter is for birthing facilities and midwives who are practicing in the State of Kansas. This is intended to be a resource document and platform for program updates.

New Project: Improve NBS Timeliness

Newborn screening is a complex process that exists to identify infants with time-critical and life-threatening metabolic or genetic disorders. Each step in the process takes precious time. From collection, shipment, to receipt at the state laboratory, there are many steps in the process that can be improved upon to save the lives of infants in Kansas.

The Kansas Newborn Screening Program was recently awarded funding by NewSTEPS 360* for a project to address issues in newborn screening timeliness. The team working on this project includes members from the NBS Follow-Up Program, NBS Laboratory Staff, and external partners from Wesley and Kansas University Medical Center.

In Kansas, Newborn Screening (NBS) specimens are not arriving at the state laboratory in a timely manner (within 72 hours of birth). The root cause for this, as determined by the state team is as follows: Hospitals/Midwives need assistance in working to decrease delays by being provided with updated education and encouraged to utilize a common carrier to transport specimens.

The two focus areas of the grant, as chosen by the state team, will include:

1. Developing education in the hospital, birthing facilities, and/or with midwives (out of hospital births) regarding timely and appropriate collection and shipment of samples.
2. Identifying and/or strengthening courier system to deliver newborn screening dried blood spots.

Our team intends to begin gathering baseline data on birthing facility transit times, or time elapsed from specimen collection to receipt at the state laboratory. The next steps for this project include educational outreach to birthing facilities, as well as a UPS pilot project with a select number of facilities to demonstrate the benefits of utilizing a common carrier. There will also be monthly update calls held for stakeholders and interested facilities/midwives to provide feedback and updates about what they are doing to improve newborn screening timeliness.

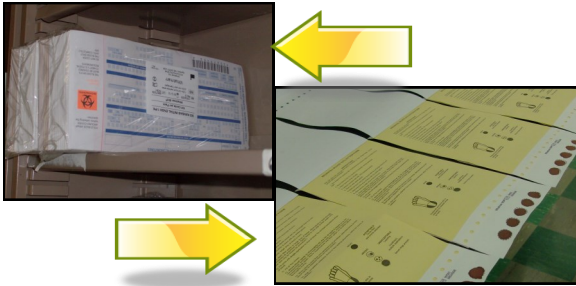
*NewSTEPS 360: a program of the Colorado School of Public Health and the Association of Public Health Laboratories

For any birthing facilities or external partners who are interested in being a part of improving timeliness in newborn screening, including receiving educational outreach or participating in the pilot project, please contact Annie Gile at (785)296-3617, or annie.gile@ks.gov.

Holiday Schedule Reminder: Please Continue to Send Specimens to the NBS Laboratory Daily— Do NOT Batch!



Filter Paper Storage: “Stack ‘em up, then lay ‘em down!”



Please make sure staff know how to store and dry cards correctly! The bloodspot cards used for the Newborn Screening metabolic testing are considered a medical device by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). We’ve discussed the need to keep track of the expiration date but we also need to remind facilities how to store the cards as well as how to dry them once the sample is collected. A good mantra might be “stack them up, then lay them down”. Unused cards should be stored stacked up on their side, as shown above left. This prevents the filter paper on the bottom of the stack from getting compressed, which can compromise its ability to allow an even distribution of the sample throughout the paper matrix. Once the sample is collected, the cards should be laid down, as shown above right. If the card is hung to dry the sample may flow towards the bottom, again compromising the even distribution of the sample throughout the filter paper.

Questions? CONTACT US!

www.kdheks.gov/newborn_screening

LABORATORY: 1-785-296-1652 (Phone)
1-758-296-0978 (Fax)

FOLLOW-UP: 1-785-296-0109 (Phone)
1-785-559-4245(Fax)

ORDER CARDS: 1-785-296-1623 (Phone)
1-785-296-1641 (Fax)

Holiday	Receiving Dept.	NBS Lab	Follow-Up Staff
Christmas Eve	Open 24/7	Will be checking results only– no testing on 12/24	Available for abnormal result coverage
Christmas Day +1 (Mon. Dec 26th)	Open 24/7	Closed	Closed
New Year’s Eve	Open 24/7	Will be checking results only– no testing on 12/31	Available for abnormal result coverage
New Year’s Day +1 (Mon. Jan. 2nd)	Open 24/7	Closed	Closed

“TOP PERFORMING FACILITIES FOR 3RD QUARTER”

Our Statewide Unsatisfactory Goal is to be ≤1.3%

Facility Name	3RD QTR Total Specimens	3RD QTR Total Unstats	3RD QUARTER AVERAGE MONTHLY UNSAT %
CHEYENNE COUNTY HOSPITAL	7	0	0.00%
CLAY CO MEDICAL CENTER	12	0	0.00%
GOVE CO MEDICAL CENTER	12	0	0.00%
HANOVER HOSPITAL	1	0	0.00%
HOLTON COMMUNITY HOSPITAL	14	0	0.00%
MEMORIAL HOSPITAL-ABILENE	8	0	0.00%
MEMORIAL HOSPITAL-MCPHERSON	22	0	0.00%
MERCY HOSPITAL-MOUNDRIDGE	5	0	0.00%
MORRIS CO HOSPITAL	6	0	0.00%
MUNSON ARMY HEALTH CENTER	1	0	0.00%
NEMAHA VALLEY COMM HOSPITAL	12	0	0.00%
NEWMAN REGIONAL HEALTH	130	0	0.00%
ROOKS COUNTY HEALTH CENTER	16	0	0.00%
SAINT JOHNS HOSPITAL	1	0	0.00%
SMITH CO MEMORIAL HOSPITAL	10	0	0.00%
STANTON CO HOSPITAL	8	0	0.00%
SUMNER REGIONAL MED CENTER	20	0	0.00%
WASHINGTON CO HOSPITAL	1	0	0.00%
SAINT FRANCIS HOSPITAL	226	1	0.44%
ST LUKE’S SOUTH HOSPITAL	180	1	0.56%
SAINT JOSEPH MEDICAL CTR	699	5	0.72%
NEWTON MEDICAL CENTER	120	1	0.83%
NEOSHO MEMORIAL HOSPITAL	109	1	0.92%
SALINA REG HEALTH CENTER	299	3	1.00%
GREAT BEND REGIONAL HOSPITAL	89	1	1.12%

