



January 2012

Newborn Screening (NBS) Program Upcoming (Future) Changes

Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS)

Changes to Healthcare Provider Requirements regarding the Use and Storage of Newborn Screening Blood Spot Cards

Effective Date: On (not before) June 1, 2012.

Why: House Bill 411 (82nd Session)

What Changes?

- Beginning on (not before) June 1, 2012, healthcare providers **MUST** distribute a new decision form to parents with each NBS specimen collection.
- The new form will be part (page 2) of the 2012 NBS specimen collection kits and will also be available (8½ X 11 format) on the DSHS NBS website.

Additional Information

- **Now through May 31, 2012** - Providers **MUST** continue to distribute the form "Use and Storage of Newborn Screening Blood Spot Cards / Directive to Destroy..." (Page 2 of the current 2010 or 2011 NBS specimen collection kits) to parents with each NBS specimen collection.
- Current 2010 and 2011 NBS collection kits can still be used after June 1, 2012. Healthcare providers **MUST** discard page 2 and distribute the 8½ X 11 version of the new decision form to parents with each NBS specimen collection.
- The 2012 NBS collection kits are expected to be available in early 2012. Use up any 2010 and 2011 NBS kits prior to moving to the new 2012 kits.
- Be mindful of the effective date (June 1, 2012) of these changes when placing an order for NBS specimen collection kits.
- The Texas Newborn Screening Program is working to develop instructions and recommendations for healthcare providers to implement the new requirements. More information and regular updates will be distributed through mail outs, the Texas NBS Listserv email distribution system, and on the laboratory website throughout early 2012.

Questions / Comments / Sign up for Email Notices

Call toll free: 1-888-963-7111 ext. 7333 or for local calls 512-776-7333

Email: NewbornScreeningLab@dshs.state.tx.us

Website: <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/lab/newbornscreening.shtm>