

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR NEWBORN SCREENING SUBMITTERS **TRANSIT TIME OF NEWBORN SCREENING SPECIMENS**

The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel recently published an article on delays in newborn screening testing due to delayed specimen delivery to the laboratory for testing (transit time). The article includes state-by-state comparisons in transit time, as well as facility-specific transit times.

The Sentinel accessed de-identified information for Newborn Screening Programs nationwide via open-records requests, analyzed the data received, and provided their findings in the article and report.

To read the report, and specifically the information regarding Texas birthing facilities, please visit this link: <http://www.jsonline.com/watchdog/deadly-delays-newborn-screening-programs-state-by-state-228834411.html#!/texas/>

The Texas Newborn Screening Program encourages healthcare providers to:

1. Read the article.
2. Assess your facility's transit times.
3. Identify possible process improvements to minimize transit time.
4. Contact the Newborn Screening Laboratory for assistance if needed. See contact information below.

Frequently Asked Questions:

How do I find out the transit time for specimens from my facility?

The Texas Newborn Screening Laboratory provides submitting facilities a monthly *Newborn Screening Facility Report Card* which includes data on the facility's success in timely delivery of specimens.

To access your facility's report card, you must be a registered user of the Texas Newborn Screening Web Application (Neometrics). If you are not already a registered user, you can sign up by completing the required forms, here: <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/lab/nbsRDSforms.shtm>

For more information on the Newborn Screening Report Card, please visit our Healthcare Provider Resources webpage: <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/lab/nbsHCRes.shtm>

What is the recommended transit time?

Ideally, specimens should be received in the laboratory for testing within 3 days of collection.

How does my facility decrease our transit time?

- **DO NOT delay** shipment of newborn screening specimens. Ship dried specimens within 24 hours, preferably via overnight courier. If mail or courier services are unavailable, ship as quickly as possible.
- **DO NOT batch or hold** dried specimens for shipping.
- Ship dried specimens directly from the collection facility to the Newborn Screening Laboratory.
- Identify internal processes which may delay shipment and look for possible improvements.

Questions / Comments / Sign up for Email Notices

Call toll free: 1-888-963-7111 ext. 7585 or for local calls 512-776-7585

Email: NewbornScreeningLab@dshs.state.tx.us