

SP Tfocus

Newborn Screening Quality Improvement Hints

One reason for test results not being correctly evaluated is

INCORRECT BIRTHWEIGHT RECORDING

To record birthweight:

Correct

Normal
birthweight baby
of 7lbs. 5oz.

Birthweight (grams)

3	3	1	7
---	---	---	---

Low birthweight
baby of 2lbs. 3oz.

Birthweight (grams)

9	9	2
---	---	---

Incorrect

Normal
birthweight baby
of 7lbs. 5oz.

Birthweight (grams)

		7	5
--	--	---	---

Normal
birthweight baby
of 7lbs. 5oz.

Birthweight (grams)

7	lbs	5	oz
---	-----	---	----

TIPS TO ENSURE ACCURATE TEST RESULTS

Always use **GRAMS** for birthweight. Click [HERE](#) for a weight conversion chart.

- Always record birthweight in GRAMS
- Record the weight of the baby at time of birth, NOT the weight at time of specimen collection
- Use the weight conversion chart as needed to ensure correct weight is being recorded
- For 3-digit low birthweights, record in the right side of birthweight field
- Do not include periods and commas when filling in birthweight on the demographic form.



Why is it important to record birthweight in grams?

The Texas Department of State Health Services Newborn Screening Laboratory evaluates test results based on the birthweight measured in grams. The birthweight number that is written on the collection form is directly entered into the DSHS Newborn Screening data system. If the weight is wrong or not in grams (for example, recorded in pounds, ounces, or kilograms), the test results may not be correctly evaluated. Accurate birthweights recorded in grams are necessary for correct interpretation of test results.

Other Helpful Resources



General newborn screening specimen collection questions:

dshs.texas.gov/lab/nbs_collect_reqs.shtm



Newborn screening collection video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vxshWngJ114>



Healthcare provider resources:

dshs.texas.gov/lab/nbsHCRes.shtm



DSHS Newborn Screening Laboratory Contact:

Email: NewbornScreeningLab@dshs.state.tx.us

or call 1-888-963-7111 ext. 7333



Monthly newborn screening facility report cards:

Sign up for Texas Newborn Screening Web Application (Neometrics) to access your facility's report card. Find the sign-up forms here:

dshs.texas.gov/lab/nbsRDSforms.shtm

