

# SPOTfocus

## Newborn Screening Quality Improvement Hints

*To help improve results of the screen*

### COLLECT THE FIRST NEWBORN SCREEN BEFORE A TRANSFUSION - EVEN IF THE NEWBORN IS NOT 24 HOURS OLD

If the first newborn screen was collected before transfusion:

DO NOT include transfused in status.

For second screens collected on transfused infants:

Include transfused in status by writing the appropriate number in the **red box** on the demographic form.

Status	
0. Normal	4. Both 1 & 2
1. Sick/Premature	5. Both 1 & 3
2. On Medications	6. Both 2 & 3
3. Transfused	7. All 1-3



**For the best results, please state the transfusion status on the demographics form. Specimens missing this information may have inaccurate or delayed results.**

#### TIPS FOR COLLECTION ON TRANSFUSED INFANTS

- Collect the first newborn screen before transfusion. Transfusions, even small ones, can impact testing and may invalidate results.
- Collect the second newborn screen as usual; at 7-14 days of age.
- If the first newborn screen was not collected before transfusion, follow these recommendations:
  - Collect a third specimen 3 months post transfusion.
  - Or collect when red blood cells can be presumed to be from the baby.



## Why is it important to correctly note transfusion status on the demographic form?

Tests on the Newborn Screening panel can be affected by many different factors, including transfusions. Tests that will be affected by transfusions include hemoglobinopathies, galactosemia, and DNA analysis testing. The Newborn Screening Cards have a place in the demographic section to note if the specimen was collected on a newborn who had already been transfused. Transfusions can include more than red blood cells, and any kind of transfusion can impact testing. Including transfusion status information allows the newborn screening lab to accurately evaluate and report results.

### Other Helpful Resources



**Newborn screening collection video:**

<https://youtu.be/S51Y9ShD6HI?si=hCdRoIZcCT7i9K2R>



**DSHS Newborn Screening Laboratory Contact:**

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