

Newborn Screening Quality Improvement Hints

Documenting Gestational Age on the Newborn Screening Collection Kit

Accurate information on the demographic form is vital for testing and result follow-up. Gestational age is a crucial measure used to determine the maturity of the fetus and is essential for assessing the baby's health at birth. Health care professionals define gestational age at birth as the weeks from the mother's last menstrual period to delivery.

Key Reminders:

- Document the gestational age in weeks and days at birth. Do not enter the corrected gestational age.
- Document gestational age when available. If unknown, the specimen remains acceptable.

Write It Right: Demographic Form Guidelines

- Use a black or blue ballpoint pen, pressing hard for good copies.
- Legibly print ALL information, using BLOCK capital letters.
- Confirm the newborn's identity and ensure all data is complete.
- If the information does not fit in the space provided, squeeze it in. Do not cut off any information.
- If you make a mistake, draw a line through it, initial, date and rewrite it.

Avoid Contamination:
Leave filter paper covered with protective flap until time to collect.

