Newborn Screening Quality Improvement Hints

One reason for test results not being correctly evaluated is INCORRECT BIRTHWEIGHT RECORDING

To record birthweight:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Correct</th>
<th>Incorrect</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Normal birthweight baby of 7lbs. 5oz.</td>
<td>Normal birthweight baby of 7lbs. 5oz.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birthweight (grams)</td>
<td>Birthweight (grams)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3317</td>
<td>7.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low birthweight baby of 2lbs. 3oz.</td>
<td>Normal birthweight baby of 7lbs. 5oz.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birthweight (grams)</td>
<td>Birthweight (grams)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>992</td>
<td>7 lbs 5 oz</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TIPS TO ENSURE ACCURATE TEST RESULTS

- 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.

Always use GRAMS for birthweight. Click HERE for a weight conversion chart.
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:
  
dhs.texas.gov/lab/nbs_collect_reqs.shtm

- Newborn screening collection video:
  
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vxshWngJ114

- Healthcare provider resources:
  
dhs.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:
  
dhs.texas.gov/lab/nbsRDSforms.shtm