Newborn Screening Specimen Collection

Newborn Screening Follow-up Program: 801-584-8256
Newborn Screening Laboratory: 801-965-2400

I.P.O.D.S.

I- Include all of the information on the card
- All of the information is important and needed for testing.
- Use BLUE or BLACK ink only. Use legible block letters, no cursive.
- Commonly missed information:
  - Date of Collection
  - Provider/Clinic information
  - Baby’s Date of Birth
  - Mother’s information
- Check the expiration date of the card, make sure it is not expired.

P- Poke the baby in the heel
- The heel of an infant is used because it is the safest to avoid infection.
- Results are validated only for specimens collected using the heel stick method.
- Capillary tube collection is NEVER acceptable. It will:
  - result in an unsatisfactory specimen.
  - cause uneven distribution of blood on the card.
  - cause tearing or scratching of the filter paper.

O- ONE large drop of blood per circle
- Do not overlap the blood or put more than one drop in a circle
- Do not overfill circle (this will cause wrinkling of the filter paper).
- Do not underfill the circle (tiny drops of blood will not be enough sample to run the tests).
- Apply blood to only one side of the card.
- Bring along a miscellaneous replacement card just in case the collection does not go well. If a miscellaneous card is needed, cross out miscellaneous card number and write in original kit number. Original kit number can be obtained by calling the follow-up program. For more information about miscellaneous card collection, please see the misc. card sheet.

D- Dry the card
- Dry the card for 3-4 hours before sending it to the State Laboratory.
- Do not use a fan, heater, or any other method to speed up the drying process.
- Drying racks are available, free of charge through our website.

S- Send the specimen to the lab
- Use a strong, durable envelope for sending.
- Send the specimen to the laboratory within 24 hours of collection.
- Do not use a biohazard bag for sending specimens.
- Before sending, look over the card once more to ensure all of the information has been filled out.

Unacceptable  Acceptable  Acceptable

Need more information? Phone: 801-584-8256  Fax: 801-536-0966
www.health.utah.gov/newbornscreening