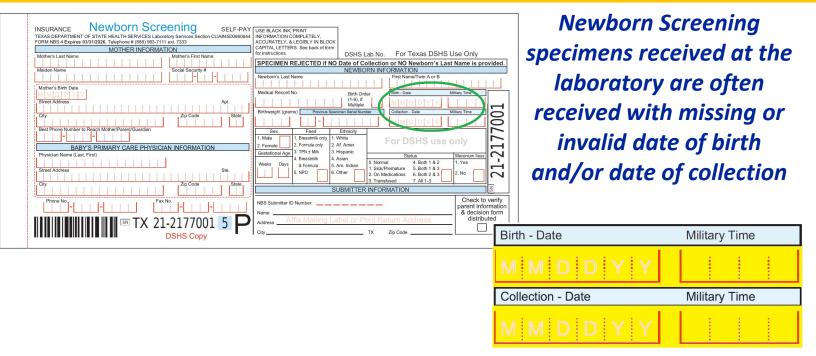


### **Newborn Screening Quality Improvement Hints**

One reason for CRITICAL DELAYS and specimen rejection of newborn screening testing are

## **Missing Date of Birth or Collection**



#### TIPS TO AVOID CRITICAL DELAYS IN TESTING SPECIMENS

The New Year Is Coming!
Unfortunately, every New
Year causes an increase in
date-related demographic
errors. These errors can lead
to delays in testing.

- •Complete all demographic information accurately and legibly to avoid delays in testing or specimen rejection.
- •Assign an individual to double check all newborn screening specimen demographics before the shipment.
- •A majority of the errors in dates occur when the New Year arrives. Implementing a "second check" system at your facility will help ensure the timely testing of all newborn screens.



# Why is a specimen with missing demographic information rejected?

In the laboratory, specimens are categorized based on the baby's age at the time of specimen collection. For this reason, date of birth and date of collection must be recorded accurately. When the information is missing, testing may be delayed. Specimens that are missing date of collection may be unsatisfactory for testing.

Accurate and complete demographic information is necessary for the timely identification of newborns and provider contact if there is an abnormal result.

## Other Helpful Resources

General newborn screening specimen collection questions:

dshs.texas.gov/lab/nbs collect regs.shtm

- Newborn screening collection video:
  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vxshWngJ114">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vxshWngJ114</a>
- Healthcare provider resources:

  <u>dshs.texas.gov/lab/nbsHCRes.shtm</u>
- DSHS Newborn Screening Laboratory Contact: Email: <u>NewbornScreeningLab@dshs.state.tx.us</u> or call <u>1-888-963-7111 ext.</u> 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/laboratory-services/remote-data-systems