



Timing of Specimen Collection:

Healthy Newborns

- **The recommended time for newborn screening specimen collection from healthy newborns is 24 - 48 hours after birth.**
- If collection is not completed during this timeframe, collection should be done no later than 7 days of age to ensure early detection of these treatable disorders.
- Samples taken from babies who are greater than 7 days of age are analyzed, however may require consultation for interpretation.
- If a specimen is collected prior to 24 hours of age, repeat specimen collection is necessary as soon as possible and ideally during the second day of life.

Premature and Sick Infants

- Premature and/or sick infants with very low birth weight (1,500 grams or less) who are admitted to a neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) or similar advanced care unit for ≥ 24 hours should have two screening specimens collected. The first specimen should be collected at 24-48 hours of age, and the second specimen should be collected at 14 days of age or prior to discharge from the NICU, whichever comes first.
- It should be documented on the specimen card that the infant was in NICU or similar advanced care unit when the specimen was collected.

Special Circumstances

Infants Receiving Special Nutrition:

- If the infant is on hyperalimentation or total parenteral nutrition (TPN), this should be documented on the bottom of specimen card.

Maternal Complications of Pregnancy:

- If the mother had significant pregnancy complications, including acute fatty liver of pregnancy, preeclampsia, eclampsia, HELLP, or any form of diabetes, this should be documented on the bottom of specimen card.

Transfusions:

- The initial newborn screening specimen should always be collected prior to transfusion, regardless of infant's age.
- If the infant's specimen was not collected pre-transfusion, or was collected prior to 24 hours of age, collect at 48 hours post-transfusion.



Infants Receiving Antibiotics:

- If the infant is receiving antibiotics at the time of specimen collection; the names of the drugs should be documented on the bottom of specimen card. In these cases, a repeat specimen might be requested.

Early Discharge:

- If the infant is to be discharged at less than 24 hours of age, a specimen should be collected prior to discharge.
- Inform the infant's parents that they must have the infant rescreened within the second day of life.
- The need for, and timing of, repeat specimen collection should be part of the discharge summary. The parents should be informed and instructed to return between 24-48 hours for collection of the newborn screening specimen.

Transfers:

- If the infant requires transfer to another facility, a specimen should be collected prior to transfer, regardless of infant's age.
- If the specimen was not collected, the transferring facility is responsible for informing the admitting facility of the need for specimen collection. The receiving facility is responsible for ensuring follow up.

Same Sex Twins:

- Infants who are same sex twins should have a routine second specimen at 14 days of age. Document same sex twin on the bottom of specimen card.
- Inform parents that their babies must be rescreened at 2 weeks of age.
- If the baby is discharged prior to this time, the need for and timing of repeat specimen collection should be part of the discharge summary, and the parents should be given a screening blotter with instructions about the appropriate timing for the newborn screening specimen.