Connecticut Newborn Screening Updates

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Connecticut Newborn Screening Program
Katherine A. Kelley Public Health Laboratory
395 West Street, Rocky Hill, CT 06067
P: (860) 920-6628, F: (860) 920-6633

Heat, Humidity and NBS Specimens

False Positive Biotinidase Results

The Connecticut Newborn Screening (NBS) Program has seen a significant increase in the number of abnormal Biotinidase (BIO) results over the past month resulting in a large number of referrals to the Genetic Treatment Centers. Referrals to treatment centers equate to additional confirmatory testing for the newborn and an increased stress level for the new parent.

We know that heat and humidity directly affect specimens undergoing Biotinidase (BIO) and Galactosemia (GALT) screenings. In one instance we had over 15 borderline BIO results over a period of a few days from one hospital. After much investigation on the part of the nurse manager, it was learned that the courier was placing envelopes containing NBS specimens directly on the seat of the vehicle which made numerous stops prior to arrival at the State Lab.

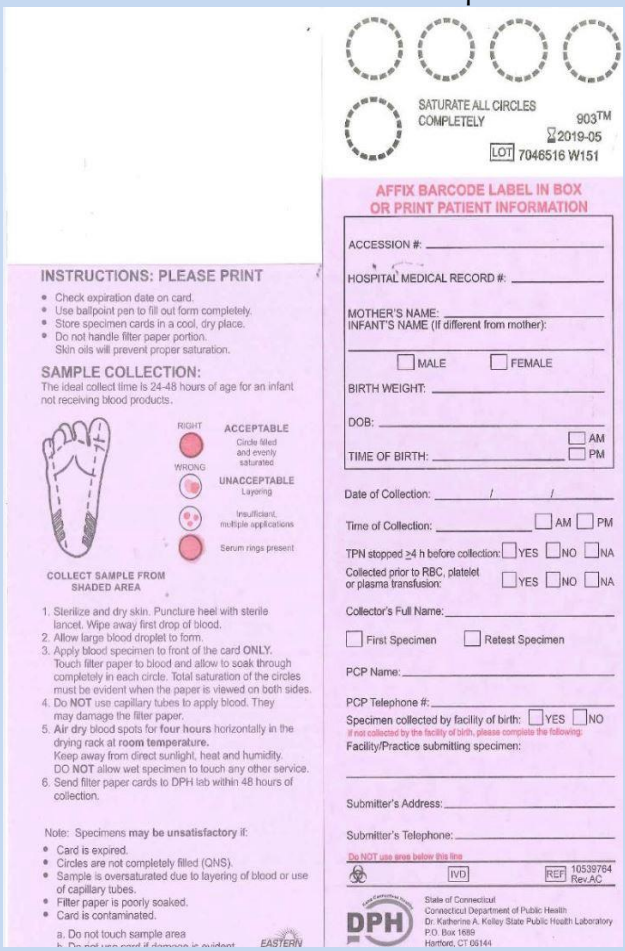
Please remind all personnel handing NBS specimens of the following:

1. Dry NBS specimen cards in a horizontal position in a climate controlled area
2. Ship NBS specimens to the State Lab within 24 hours of collection.
3. Do not allow NBS specimens to sit in/on a hot mailbox, loading dock or vehicle seat.
4. Transport NBS specimens in an insulated container

With your help we can decrease the number of referrals for false positive Biotinidase results this summer and save the babies unnecessary testing. Please don't hesitate to call the NBS Tracking Program with any questions.

Updated NBS Specimen Cards

Your next regular shipment of NBS specimen collection supplies will contain a new version of the NBS blood-spot specimen card. Updated instructions will accompany shipments of new cards. ***You may continue to use the blue NBS specimen cards with valid expiration dates until your supply runs out.***

The new cards are a lavender color and have updated specimen collection instructions on the back. Other updates to the card include:

1. The addition of a 5th blood spot circle to accommodate new screening tests
2. Spaces for TPN and Transfusion information (which can affect metabolic testing, HGB and SCID results)
3. A space for the collector's full name
4. Spaces for the submitter's contact information when the submitter is not the hospital of birth