



# Newborn Screening Best Practice Tips

## Proper Completion of Blood Spot Card Data

- Have administrative staff record as much data as possible when building the patient chart.
- Have a secondary reviewer for all data recorded on the card.
- Verbally verify primary care physician information, do not rely on existing information in the electronic medical record.
- Utilize a Quality Assurance (QA) card template to ensure all needed information is documented and accurate.

## Collection of Blood Spot Specimens

- Use a lancet to perform the heel puncture (incision depth to be less than 1.0mm).
- Complete blood spot collection first, prior to other needed labs. If other labs require blood collection into a vial, be aware that the scraping motion of a collection vial on the heel initiates clotting process.
- Collect blood spots during a specific window of time, to allow required dry time (3 hours) and package preparation time for courier pick up (same day).
- If possible have blood spot collection done routinely by smaller team of highly trained staff.

## Timeliness in Collection and Submission of Specimens

- Know hospital lab daily cut-off time for specimen submission.
- Have standing orders for which staff member and by what time specimens will be delivered to packaging area for courier pick up.
- Have designated specimen pick up location in the hospital lab.

## Follow-up of Abnormal Screening Results

- Ensure primary care physician is listed accurately on card.
- Have a designated follow-up coordinator.

## Utilization of Report Cards and Online Services

- Review online report cards to measure effectiveness of processes.
- Utilize online system to print demographic labels.