



# NEWBORN SCREENING

## Reminders for Home Births

1

Timely newborn screening can make the difference between life and death for some newborns. The optimum time for collection of the newborn screen (NBS) is when the baby is **between 24 and 48 hours of age**. It is no longer based on feeding time.

2

Be sure to **detach the top sheet from the NBS collection form and hand to the mother/parents**. This is the parent's information sheet. Make sure the mother/parents also receive the two NBS educational materials titled, "Newborn Screening - Protecting Your Newborn" and "Your Baby's First Hearing Test." Both educational materials are available in English, Spanish, Bosnian and Vietnamese.

3

**Fill out the NBS collection form completely and accurately**, printing clearly and in the correct boxes. Incomplete or absent sample collection date and time will not be amendable after testing has been completed and a repeat screen will be necessary.

4

Provide two phone numbers to contact the mother (mother's number and/or that of a neighbor, relative or friend), and **make sure the correct primary care provider is stated (the individual who will continue seeing the child)**. It is essential that this information is accurate in case the family needs to be immediately contacted due to high risk screening results.

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**The heel stick is the preferred method for NBS sample collection**. Educational materials and DVDs for quality sample collection are available upon request by calling 573-751-2662.

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Get the sample to a state courier pick up site or mail-out as soon as it has thoroughly air-dried (three to four hours). **Prompt sample transit time can be lifesaving for the baby**. To avoid extreme temperature and humidity exposure to the bloodspot sample, refrain from using outside mail drop off boxes.

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If your clients have Medicaid coverage, **you may be eligible to receive reimbursement** for NBS collection forms. For more information, contact the State NBS Laboratory at 573-751-2662.

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**Reduced rate NBS collection forms are available** for families with no insurance coverage due to financial limitations or religious beliefs. For more information, contact the Bureau of Genetics and Healthy Childhood at 800-877-6246.

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**Never throw away a NBS collection form**. If you make a mistake or if you suspect the specimen will be a poor quality sample, allow the specimen to dry completely, write VOID across the front of the form and return to the State NBS Laboratory along with the correct form. The voided form will be replaced free of charge.

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Undetected hearing loss can have a long-lasting impact on learning and language. Parents cannot be sure their baby hears all sounds. A baby who has hearing loss may jump or startle to loud sounds, like a dog bark or clapping hands, but miss other sounds and speech.

**A hearing test is the only certain way to check a baby's hearing.** A baby who did not pass the initial hearing screening should get more testing right away.

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Hearing loss occurs more frequently than any other condition for which population based screening is performed. **To obtain a list of audiologists who perform NBS hearing screenings and diagnostic evaluations**, go to <http://health.mo.gov/living/families/genetics/newbornhearing/publications.php>, or call 1-800-877-6246 and ask for the Newborn Hearing Screening Program.

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Use the hearing screening result section of the bloodspot form to either **indicate where the parents will take the infant for a hearing screening or to indicate the parents' refusal of the screening**. Return the hearing screening form with the bloodspot form to the State NBS Laboratory.

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As of January 1, 2014, all babies born in Missouri are required to be screened for **critical congenital heart disease (CCHD)**.

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Know your legal responsibilities. It is state law that every baby born in Missouri receives newborn screenings. If the parents wish to refuse any of the newborn screenings, you are required by law to provide them with education to ensure that they are able to make an informed decision regarding the health and well-being of their child. Screening related laws and regulations can be found at <http://www.health.mo.gov/living/families/genetics/newbornscreening/lawsregs.php> and <http://www.health.mo.gov/living/families/genetics/newbornhearing/lawsregs.php>. For more information on documenting and reporting parental refusals please contact the Bureau of Genetics and Healthy Childhood at 800-877-6246.

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Please utilize our **NBS webpages**:

- Newborn Screening Laboratory at [www.health.mo.gov/lab/newborn](http://www.health.mo.gov/lab/newborn)
- Newborn Blood Spot Screening at [www.health.mo.gov/newbornscreening](http://www.health.mo.gov/newbornscreening)
- Newborn Hearing Screening at [www.health.mo.gov/newbornhearing](http://www.health.mo.gov/newbornhearing)
- Newborn CCHD Screening at [www.health.mo.gov/cchd](http://www.health.mo.gov/cchd)

*If you have questions, please contact the State Newborn Screening Laboratory Manager by phone at 573-751-2662 or the Bureau of Genetics and Healthy Childhood at 800-877-6246.*

This project is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administrative (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under grant number B04MC23390, Maternal and Child Health Services, for the FFY 16 grant amount of \$33,800.00, 0.0% financed with nongovernmental sources. This information or content and conclusions are those of the author and should not be construed as the official position or policy of, nor should any endorsements be inferred by HRSA, HHS or the U.S. Government.