



# Newborn Screening Provider Education Reminder

The proper collection of specimens for newborn screening by hospitals, birthing facilities, health departments and healthcare providers is one of the most important activities occurring during the first days of a newborn's life. Obtaining quality and timely specimens can prevent potential harm to infants and exposure to the risk of litigation.

- **When submitting an initial specimen:**
  - Complete **all** information requested on the form. Be sure to include the complete medical record number of the infant. Make certain all copies are legible.
  - Include type of protein feeding infant is receiving
  - Identify if infant received a transfusion of a blood product
  - Provide the name of the physician, hospital, or public health clinic that should receive the result and will be responsible for follow up on the infant.
  
- **Omissions or Inaccurate Information:** The date of collection, date of birth, time of birth and time of collection are used to determine whether results are normal or abnormal. Omitting this information can cause unnecessary repeat samples for the child.
  
- **When collecting a repeat specimen:** Check the appropriate box on the form: "*RETEST- PRIOR UNSATISFACTORY*" or "*RETEST-PRIOR ABNORMAL*" (*REQUESTED BY STATE*)
  - Complete all requested information on the form; ***names and demographics may be different from the initial specimen.*** Make certain all copies are legible.
  - Give the name of the physician, hospital, or public health clinic that should receive the result and will be responsible for follow up on the infant.
  
- **Avoid** punching holes in the barcode on the specimen card. Holes in the barcode require the laboratory staff to manually enter the information, slowing down the testing process and creating the opportunity for error.
  
- **Electronic retrieval of NBS results is available through the State Electronic Notifiable Disease Surveillance System, (SendSS):** To enroll in SendSS, visit <http://sendss.state.ga.us> and follow the instructions on the login page. You will receive a call from the SendSS program administrator confirming your registration.
  
- **Assure** that parents receive the "green" parent information sheet to take to their baby's health care visit to obtain test results. Easy access to test results avoid repeat testing and added costs for parent and provider.

**For more information, contact the NBS Program at (404) 657-4143, or the Georgia Public Health Laboratory at (404) 327-7950.**