SPECIMEN TOO OLD UPON RECEIPT

Quick delivery of specimens is imperative as some disorders need to be identified, diagnosed and treated within 7 days of life to prevent onset of clinical symptoms. It is important that submitting facilities are mindful of the time between collection and shipment.

TIPS TO AVOID THIS TYPE OF REJECTION:

- Allow the card to dry thoroughly in a horizontal position for a minimum of 3-4 hours after the specimen has been collected.
- Ship dried specimens directly from the collection facility to the Newborn Screening Laboratory.
- Ship dried specimens within 24 hours, preferably via overnight courier. If mail or courier services are unavailable, ship as quickly as possible.
- Do not batch or hold specimens for bulk mailing.
- Ensure proper postage.
- Note that mail holidays (Christmas, Thanksgiving, etc.) will further delay delivery.
- Consider the use of courier services, especially during the holidays.
- Ensure that all specimens are sent with a correct Date of Collection.
- Identify internal processes which may delay shipment and look for possible improvements.
  See Decreasing Time Between Collection of Newborn Screening Specimens to Receipt in DSHS Laboratory
- Remember to Use Correct Mailing Address when Sending Specimens:

  If using **Overnight/Priority Shipping (UPS, DHL, FedEx, etc.)** please use this address:
  Texas Department of State Health Services
  Laboratory Services Section, MC 1947
  1100 W. 49th Street
  Austin, TX 78756-3199

  If sending by **regular mail**, please use this address:
  Texas Department of State Health Services
  Laboratory Services Section, MC 1947
  PO Box 149341
  Austin, TX 78714-9341

To access videos, guides, presentations, and other training resources on specimen collection, visit: [http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/lab/nbsHCRes.shtm#specCol](http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/lab/nbsHCRes.shtm#specCol)

Questions
Contact the DSHS Newborn Screening (NBS) Laboratory at:
NewbornScreeningLab@dshs.state.tx.us
1-888-963-7111 ext. 7585