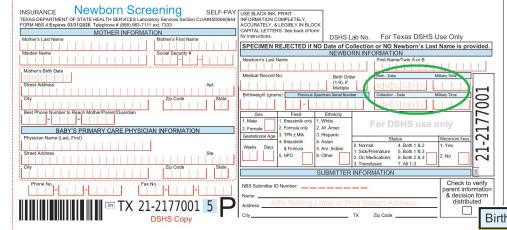# SP●Tfocus

Newborn Screening Quality Improvement Hints

One reason for CRITICAL DELAYS and specimen rejection of newborn screening testing are

Missing Date of Birth or Collection

Newborn Screening specimens received at the laboratory are often received with missing or invalid date of birth and/or date of collection

TIPS TO AVOID CRITICAL DELAYS IN TESTING SPECIMENS

The New Year Is Coming! Unfortunately, every New Year causes an increase in date-related demographic errors. These errors can lead to delays in testing.

- Complete all demographic information accurately and legibly to avoid delays in testing or specimen rejection.

- Assign an individual to double check all newborn screening specimen demographics before the shipment.

- A majority of the errors in dates occur when the New Year arrives. Implementing a "second check" system at your facility will help ensure the timely testing of all newborn screens.

Why is a specimen with missing demographic information rejected?

In the laboratory, specimens are categorized based on the baby's age at the time of specimen collection. For this reason, date of birth and date of collection must be recorded accurately. When the information is missing, testing may be delayed. Specimens that are missing date of collection may be unsatisfactory for testing.

Accurate and complete demographic information is necessary for the timely identification of newborns and provider contact if there is an abnormal result.

Other Helpful Resources

Newborn screening collection video:
https://clsi.org/nbs01-gate/

DSHS Newborn Screening Laboratory Contact:
Email: NewbornScreeningLab@dshs.state.tx.us
or call *1-888-963-7111 ext. 7333*