

## 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/nbsHCRRes.shtm#specCol>

#### Questions

Contact the DSHS Newborn Screening (NBS) Laboratory at:

[NewbornScreeningLab@dshs.state.tx.us](mailto:NewbornScreeningLab@dshs.state.tx.us)

1-888-963-7111 ext. 7585