

# NEWBORN SCREENING TIMELINESS TIPS

**24**

**Collect at 24  
hours of age.**

Collecting too soon may not allow the baby to establish their own analyte levels independent of the mother's levels.

Collecting as close to 24 hours, but not before, speeds up the screening process to expedite results and early interventions if they are needed.

**4**

**Dry  
horizontally for  
4 hours.**

Most specimens will be dry in 3-4 hours.

Dry horizontally in a drying rack.

Do not allow anything, not even gloved hands, to contact the spots before, during or after collection.

**24**

**Arrive at the  
state lab within  
24 hours of  
collection.**

Holding specimens for several days (batching) slows the screening process and increases the risk of adverse outcomes for high risk babies.

All specimens should be received by the lab within 24 hours of collection so that results and early interventions can happen as soon as possible.

- Ship specimens via Next-Day Air, everyday.
- Implement a "second-check" system for spots and demographics before packaging.
- Use a log system to track collection, drying, packing and shipping times.