November 19, 2026

Dear Provider,

The South Carolina Department of Public Health's Newborn Screening Program (DPH) is writing to remind you of your legal obligation to collect a blood specimen from every newborn you deliver within 24 to 48 hours of age.

S.C. Code Ann. § 44-37-30 mandates newborn screening for all children born in South Carolina and authorizes DPH to issue regulations necessary to implement such testing. S.C. Code Ann. Reg. 60-80(D)(3)(e) specifies that, for births occurring outside a hospital, the individual in attendance is responsible for collecting the specimen according to departmental instructions and submitting it to the laboratory on the same day it is collected.

Failure to collect and submit newborn screening specimens in accordance with statute and regulation is a violation under S.C. Code Ann. § 44-37-30(G). Such violation is a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, may result in a fine of up to fifty thousand dollars or imprisonment for up to three years.

The DPH State Public Health Laboratory can provide interactive hands-on newborn screening (NBS) training utilizing infant heel simulators, practice newborn screening collection cards, and other materials. Trainings are offered at no cost to all South Carolina providers.

DPH offers Official Departmental Instructions and all necessary forms for proper specimen collection and submission on its website and has staff available to assist you at 803-898-0619.

Thank you for your continued partnership in this vital endeavor and your assistance in safeguarding the health of South Carolina's children.

Sincerely,

Jenny Meredith, Ph.D, HCLD(ABB)
Public Health Laboratory Director