

Timeliness For Newborn Screening Success



SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC HEALTH

The Importance of Timeliness

Timely collection, shipping, and reporting of newborn screening results is necessary to achieve early identification of affected newborns. Delays in the process can hinder timely reporting and treatment, which may lead to poor outcomes.



Baby Born
(Hour 0)



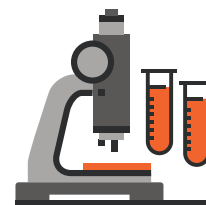
Specimen Collected
(24–48 hours of life)



Specimen Drying
(3–4 hours needed to dry)



Courier Pickup:
(Sunday–Friday after 9pm)



Specimen Received by PHL
(within 24 hours after collection or same day)

Shipping Issues or Concerns?

Please contact Newborn Screening Quality Improvement team at:

nbsqi@dph.sc.gov

Goals for Reporting Results

For time-critical disorders, presumptive positive results are reported within 5 days of life.

For normal results and non-time critical disorders, results are reported within 7 days of life.

Recommended Collection Guidelines for Low Birth Weight, Preterm, or Transfused Infants

Initial specimen: collect prior to blood transfusion or transfer. If not, collect at 24–48 hours of life.

Second specimen: collect at 28 days of life, or at discharge, whichever is first.

If patient was transfused, repeat specimen needs to be collected greater than 120 days after last transfusion.

Need More Info?

Scan this QR code to view the **NBS Manual** on the DPH website.

