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Date: May 13, 2024

To: Oregon birth facilities and health care providers

From: Northwest Regional Newborn Bloodspot Screening Program

Subject: **Updated specimen collection guidelines-effective 5.20.24**

The Northwest Regional Newborn Bloodspot Screening Program has updated the specimen collection guidelines for babies who are delivered early or have low birth weight. These changes are being made to align specimen collection with best practices published by the Clinical & Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI) Guidelines.

Please review the following changes and ensure your hospital and facility procedures align:

- An additional specimen collection at 28 days of life is recommended ONLY for babies who are <34 weeks gestation at birth or have a birth weight <2000 grams.
- Specimen collection should occur before an RBC transfusion. If the initial specimen was collected earlier than 24 hours of life, due to the RBC transfusion, an additional specimen collection at 48-72 hours of life is required. This baby will need another specimen collection at 10-14 days of life.
- If a baby is transferred to another facility prior to 24 hours of life the responsibility of the specimen collection between 24-48 hours of life resides with the receiving facility.

Please use a triple specimen collection kit for babies who are born at <34 weeks gestation, have a birth weight of <2000 grams, or receives an RBC transfusion at less than 24 hours of life. If you require any additional specimen collection cards, please contact the newborn screening program.

A visual representation of the revised specimen collection guidance is attached and is also provided on our [medical providers webpage](#). The Practitioner's Manual and the Oregon Administrative Rules will be updated to align with these updated guidelines with the next revision.

Please [contact the program](#) with any questions.

Sincerely,

Patrice Held

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