

Date: July 13, 2012

To: All Zones
Physicians, Nurses and Laboratory Directors and Managers

From: AHS Laboratory Services – Newborn Metabolic Screening Program

Re: Downtime Procedure for Newborn Metabolic Screening

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Please continue to process all Newborn Metabolic Screen requisitions as priority samples.

Due to the recent IT system outage, the Person Directory and Newborn Metabolic Screen (NMS) application is unavailable. To ensure patient safety, please implement the following downtime procedures, effective immediately and until further notice, in order to collect and screen NMS samples in a timely manner. Please recognize and understand some samples may be collected twice.

Collections without a ULI

- do not delay collection of the Newborn Metabolic Screen even if a ULI is not available
- write “**ULI unavailable**” in the ULI field on the Newborn Metabolic Screening requisition
- write the medical record number (MRN) in the chart number field

Collections in Birth Facilities

- collect a Newborn Metabolic Screen sample on all infants prior to discharge even if the infant is less than 24 hours of age - this practice is an exception due to the current downtime situation and these infants may require recollection in the community
- communicate to the parents that a repeat sample will be required to make sure their baby receives the best possible care

Collections in the Community

- every health care professional that encounters a newborn in the community needs to confirm a Newborn Metabolic Screen has been previously completed
- if it cannot be confirmed, a sample must be collected
- write the Newborn Hospital Chart Number from the Notice of Birth in the chart number field on the Newborn Metabolic Screening requisition

For additional questions contact:

- Please contact the NMS Program for further information at 403- 476-2679 or email NMSprogram@albertahealthservices.ca

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by Dr. James Wesenberg, AHS Provincial Medical / Scientific Director, Laboratory Services