



Unsatisfactory Specimen: Old Sample Too Old to Test (TOT)

<p><u>Background:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Old Sample:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ A sample is unsatisfactory when the sample is received at the MDHHS Newborn Screening laboratory more than 14 days after the collection date.• Old specimens may cause test results to be inaccurate. A repeat specimen will be required. This can lead to critical delays in identifying serious health issues for the infant.• Too Old to Test (TOT):<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ TOT unsatisfactory specimens occur when the sample is collected after the infant is one year old.○ A repeat specimen is NOT indicated. The family should follow-up with their medical provider for guidance on any recommended testing outside of the MDHHS Newborn Screening laboratory.	<p><u>Tips to Avoid Old Sample Specimen:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The NBS Program provides courier service to every hospital Monday through Friday. Hospitals in the Upper Peninsula have courier service on Saturday and those in the Lower Peninsula on Sunday.• Blood specimens should be collected at 24-36 hours of life, ideally 24-30 hours, and air dried a minimum of three hours (horizontally).• Maintain a log of each blood spot screen collected and a courier log to assure that all collected specimens are sent to the NBS Lab and results are received.• Specimens collected more than five hours before the scheduled courier pickup.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Should be sent by courier the same day.• Specimens collected fewer than five hours before the scheduled courier pickup<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Should be sent the next day the courier is scheduled to pick up.• Ensure that all NBS cards have the correct specimen Date/Time of Collection recorded.• Do not batch or hold specimens for bulk mailing. <p><u>Tips to Avoid Old Sample Specimen:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Do not collect a NBS sample on an infant over the age of one year.
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If you have questions regarding your Newborn Screening courier pickup time, days and location,
please contact newbornscreening@michigan.gov