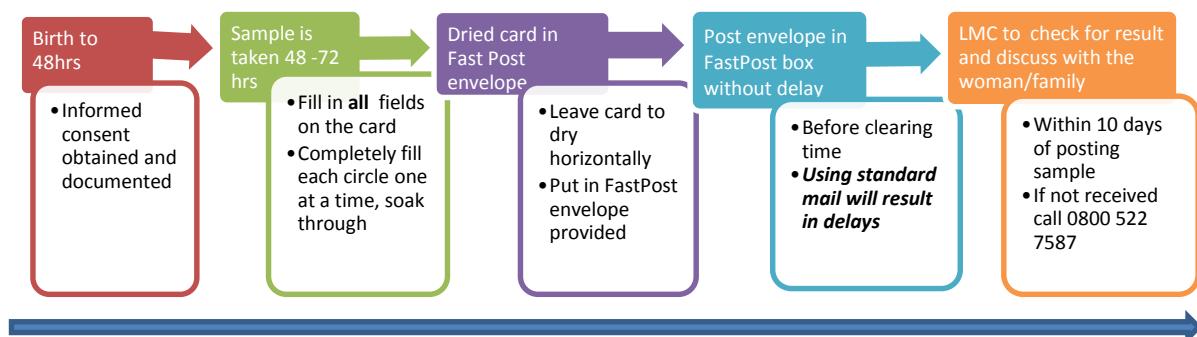


Achieving programme quality standards – key messages for LMCs

December 2015

Introduction

A continued collaborative effort is needed to meet Newborn Metabolic Screening Programme standards and reduce the chances of late diagnosis of one of the screened disorders. Many of the disorders can be fatal or cause serious disability if not detected early and any delays can affect the outcome.



'A baby's life may depend on it'

Newborn metabolic screening coverage

Good communication about the screening test in the antenatal period, during the informed consent process, and especially when a baby in your care transfers can prevent babies missing screening.

Check for a screening result from all consented babies:

- For all babies in their care, best practice is for LMCs to check they have received a report from LabPLUS within 10 days of the sample being posted, whether the sample was taken by the LMC or not.
- If not received, call LabPLUS on 0800 522 7587 (0800LABLINK) to check and take action, where required.

To monitor the programme, accurate information on the number of parents/guardians who decline newborn metabolic screening is needed.

- If a parent/guardian declines newborn metabolic screening after being provided with full information about newborn screening and benefits of early treatment, with parental consent please notify LabPLUS. Write 'decline' on the blood spot card, adding the baby's sticky label and sending it in the envelope provided.

Timing of sample-taking

For a timely and reliable result:

- Take the sample at 48 hours or as soon as possible after this

- Don't take samples too early (48 hours is needed for abnormal levels of some metabolites to show up).

Quality of samples

The most common reason for inadequate sample is layered or insufficient blood.

Taking an adequate sample avoids the costs, inconvenience and distress of an unnecessary repeat.

- Fill all four circles.
- Dry the sample horizontally for two to four hours.
- Ensure all fields of the card are filled in – time of birth, date and time of sample collection are all important.

Sample transit

Samples must be received by the laboratory within four calendar days being taken. While the ideal transit time is 1-2 days, this standard takes into account additional postal time over weekends and public holidays.

- Use FastPost envelopes and boxes (or courier).
- **Since postal changes from 1st of July 2015, standard mail is much slower.**
- Check that FastPost envelopes have the printed lab address (there have been a few envelopes that have escaped printing) and add sender information.
- If using a courier bag use the correct address: LabPLUS, *Specimen reception, Level 3, Building 31, Auckland Hospital, Gate 4, Grafton Rd, Auckland, 1010, New Zealand*

Regular feedback will continue to be provided to DHBs and practitioners on the transit times of samples for babies in their care. LabPLUS will continue to follow up any samples that are significantly delayed.

Are you receiving texts from the screening laboratory?

Receiving notification by mobile text from LabPLUS is now available for LMCs when a second sample is required.

To receive text rather than phone calls, please send a text to 021704781 with your name and registration number. Ensure your phone is password protected and kept safe.

Resources

Free lancets, blood spot cards and postage paid FastPost envelopes are available to order by email. from: newbornscreeningresources@adhb.govt.nz **OR** phone Lablink: 0800 522 7587.

Visit the new webpage for LMCs and DHB maternity leaders: Working together on quality improvements for newborn metabolic screening samples – transit times

www.nsu.govt.nz/health-professionals/newborn-metabolic-screening-programme/working-together-quality

The Guidelines for practitioners providing services within the Newborn Metabolic Screening Programme in New Zealand contain essential information about the programme for LMCs. These can be downloaded or ordered in hard copy from www.nsu.govt.nz/health-professionals/newborn-metabolic-screening-programme/procedures-guidelines-and-reports